

Heritage Happenings

Archives Office

December 2020

Lest We Forget...

ANNIVERSARY

Anniversaries are always happy occasions but this year has become an anniversary of memories. Let us remember our history of Holy Family College and celebrate all that has been and whatever will come in God's plan.

December 4, 2020 This year would have been the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of the newly built Holy Family College: 1960—2020. This year would have also marked the 85th anniversary of the beginning of Holy Family College: 1935.

Our history begins with a letter. In May, 1935, Mother Generose received a surprise letter from Bishop Rhode informing her that he had to respond to the Holy See about the education of the sisters. Communities were being questioned about Sisters being sent to secular universities. Four small ledgers beginning in 1921 record where each Sister attended school, years they attended, subjects taken and, of course, their final grade. Schools included: University of Wisconsin and Edgewood in Madison; Loyola University, Ca.; Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles; Ypsilanti, Michigan; State Teachers College, Stevens Point; Viterbo College, La-Crosse, WI; Arizona State University; Northern State Normal, Marquette, MI; College of Steubenville, Ohio; Catholic Sisters College (St. Joseph's) Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Siena College, New York...12 different colleges. I found two Sisters still living: Sister Rose Cecile Armbruster and Sister Kateri Cooper.



Knowledge of the new college began with a simple sentence by Mother Generose in her November 14, 1935 letter to 'My dear Sisters'. Her fourth paragraph begins: "In order to comply with the requirements of Church and State in the work of education, we are obliged to build a small addition to the convent. This is extended from the east side leading over from the main east side entrance." Small meant the gym plus four stories.

Bids for the building began on September 14, 1935. By November, the building was already in progress.

Sister Ann Patrick Graney was a novice at this time and she was all excited. She wrote the following: "little by little all great things are made. So it is with our new building. From the day that we saw the first shovelful of earth removed, we have watched its growth with eager, grateful, prayerful hearts. As each new feature appeared the excavation for the basement, the steel frame, the walls, windows, and floors, our interest grew greater and greater. Some of the points that made a special demand on our attention were the large crane with which the heavy pieces of steel were raised from the ground to the different floors when the men were setting up the frame; the catching of the red hot bolts in buckets, the bolts being heated on one floor while those who set them in place were often one or two floors above; and the placing of the bricks. Each brick required just so much cement to join it to its comrades, and each had its own definite position. The walls were covered with large gray canvases. Even the walls of the fourth floor were now covered.

What can we say of the escutcheon? On it we find emblazoned the arm of our Blessed Lord crossed with that of our Holy Father Saint Francis. Thus as Our Lord was ever with our dear patron, so too may He be with our Patrons' followers, and may the blessing of both rest upon us. All of us anxiously await the time when we can set foot within our Junior College. Our new building signifies much to us—the growth of our family and the abundance of God's blessings upon us. Henceforth may our new building also be the object of our Blessed Lord's bounteous gifts. "Pax Huic Domo". The new building was blessed and dedicated on June 16, 1936 and named "St. Francis Hall". The first graduation was held on June 4, 1939.



ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE
SUMMER SESSION
1936

In our archives are booklets for summer sessions, those printed from 1934—1960 and two sheets of paper listing summer classes for 1920 and 1928, if you ever want to see what was taught in those earlier years.

GET
ON
BOARD



Board of Directors Organized

Administration of this new venture was definitely a challenge. Prior to 1949, the Mother Superior was President of the College: 1935-1939 Mother Generose Cahill; 1939-1945 Mother Perpetua Nothom; and 1945-1949 Mother Edna Ryan. A suggestion made on December 30, 1947 by Mother Edna to re-organize the college was finally realized on January 16, 1949. Sister Orestes, not the Mother Superior, was elected the new President, Sister Rosamond Academic Dean, and Sister Mary Dominic Registrar. The General Administration now became the Board of Directors. Bylaws were written for the new legal reorganization. The Board composed of Sisters continued this way until another change was suggested.

In 1957 Mother Agna became the Community's Mother Superior. In a letter to Walter Clark, November 25, 1957, she wrote: "Now that Holy Family College has opened its doors to lay students (1956), it is necessary that a Board of Advisors be set up". Bylaws identify that the Lay Board was made up of 15 lay members with the President of the College being an Ex-Officio member. Committees were organized and got to work immediately especially regarding construction work and finances. Their first official meeting was held on January 26, 1958. By August final plans were completed for the new college.



On November 9, 1958 ground breaking was held. On July 26, 1959 the laying of the cornerstone and graduation ceremonies were combined.

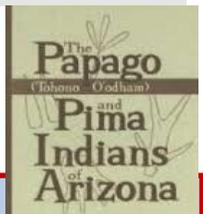
December 4, 1960 Bishop Bona dedicated the new college and Our Lady of Guadalupe became the patroness of the college.



Already in 1963 it was recommended that the college become a separate corporation instead of continuing to be a part of the corporation of Holy Family Convent. It would be almost ten years before this became a reality. Articles of Incorporation and By-laws were eventually developed and membership was decided. On December 5, 1972 Silver Lake College became a legal corporation in the State of Wisconsin. It's name now became Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. The original Board of Directors made up of Administration members held their last meeting as such on May 22, 1973.

On December 5, 1972 Silver Lake College became a legal corporation in the State of Wisconsin. It's name now became Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. The original Board of Directors made up of Administration members held their last meeting as such on May 22, 1973.

Bapchule Anniversary



During this month of December, other exciting anniversaries are to be celebrated: On December 28, 1935 our Sisters arrived in Bapchule, our first mission among the Native Americans in Arizona. Congratulations to all those Sisters who served in Bapchule and are still celebrating their presence at St. Peter's!! This picture taken in 2019 shows: Sisters Thereselle Arruda, Carol Mathe, Pamela Catherine Peasel, Elena Gonzales, Barbara Jean Butler, Dora Lee Monian, and Martha Mary Carpenter.



More historical news from the archives about the college to follow. Questions you would like to see addressed are always welcome: College name changes, Franciscan Values, Logo, Motto, Fund Raisers, etc. Presidents, etc.

