

1884

# Heritage Happenings

Archives Office

April 2023

Lest We Forget...

## Moving Back Home



It's been fifteen months since the fire took away their home. Finally their new building is ready and plans had been made to move back in on December 8, 1882, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a special holy day. But a snowstorm was raging outside and it prevented the Sisters from walking over to St. Joseph's Church for Mass that morning. So Father Fessler decided to "come to them" and say Mass. That first Mass in the rebuilt Motherhouse was celebrated in the basement corner room...now the present Lunch Room!! Finally on December 17, 1882 the new two story wing was rededicated. Amalgamation between the two groups was still in process so... What was life like then?



The best thing about  
*Memories*  
is making them

Memories continue of these historical days.  
What memories do YOU have of your "early years?"

Many decisions had been made. Prayers were now said in German and English, alternating days. The rubrics of the Office differed: Sisters rose and bowed profoundly at the Gloria Patri closing each Psalm. Except on great feastdays, Communion was received three times weekly by professed Sisters, twice weekly by novices, and Sundays only by candidates (postulants). Each Sister had a thin face veil that she wore to chapel over her veil, lowering it over her face after Holy Communion. It was worn for Confession and for passing through crowds at church when on missions. The Sisters were exercised in humility for infractions by such penances as standing at the refectory door with fragments of on coming late to prayer, kissing each step to



kneeling on the floor in the refectory to eat, a broken dish, kneeling at the Communion rail the dormitory etc.

In the refectories there were no chairs; benches flanked the bare wood tables. Dishes were a dark brown crockery purchased by Mother Alexia. The plate was deep, shaped like a large, shallow soup bowl, and it served first as a soup dish, then as a dinner place, and last as dessert dish. The fork and the knife—only one knife for each two Sisters—were black handled, and had to be scoured frequently. After meals the dishes were washed in wooden tubs by the novices. Soft wood floors had to be scrubbed frequently. There was central furnace heating the two main floors. The dormitories were heated by wood stoves. Cracking through a layer of ice in one's wash basin was part of morning routine. Mattresses were straw ticks replenished each summer. A tick mattress was a large bag made of strong, stiff material, filled with straw, wool or down feathers. The tick was sewn to hold the filling in place.



Wash was done on Mondays. Workers rose at 3:30 AM; the laundress and her assistant at 1:30 AM!! In the washroom (old clinic area) four tubs stood: two on the east wall with a board on top for rubbing clothes; on the south wall one was for rinsing and the other for bluing. Two boilers (iron kettles set in brick with fire below), one filled with rain water for washing woolens, stockings and flannels. A pump stood at one end for drawing rain water from the cistern. A crew of four hung clothes out on the washline, or in the attics (St. Matthias and St. Agatha) on rainy days. Ironing was done in the ironing room, the present bakery. A tall, square stove had an iron ledge on top. On it, heavy, one-piece irons were tilted upright, flat surface against the hot stove.

(See additional photos on next page!!)



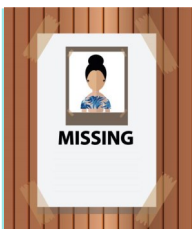
Edmund Dirkman - Eileen Colligan - Epiphany Carroll - Evangela Bordenkircher - Edwardine Harris - Ernestine Hanggie



Evangelist Halloran - Eileen Kerkhof - Eusebia Kaeser - Elizabeth Munch - Elizabeth Lemberger - Ezra Polski



Elverna Schroeder - Emily Wegemer - Find me.... - Estelle Schadeberg - Eleanore May - Esther Yaest



Still searching for: Sister Clotilda Bonn, Sister Carmelita Cullen, Sister Coletta Cummings, Sister Clarita Demers, Sister Cleopha Dunn, Sister Constantia Engrisch, Sister Carmel Feeny, Sister Columba Jodway, Sister Columba Joyce, Sister Consuelle Kempen, Sister Casimir Kubatzka, Sister Carlos Lietzan, Sister Cherubim O'Brien, Sister Casimir Polska, Sister Charitas Riordan, Sister Cleopha Spahn, Sister Consolate Mayrand.

FOUND: Camille Cox, Claver Donovan, Candida Gagnon, Confirma Jakubisin.



The identification in historical photos continues for those still missing. The next set will be the names beginning with "E"!!