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"... It's Off To School We Go!"



75¢

A HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN



Loretto

LORETTO CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

To begin the history of Loretto Catholic Central High School, one must travel back in history to the little Chippewa fishing settlement, Bowating, on the shores of the St. Mary's River.

Renamed, Sainte Marie du Sault, this community witnessed the celebration of a mass on July 20, 1641. This was the beginning of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

In 1896 Reverend J. B. Connelly, S.J. became pastor of St. Mary's parish. It was he who invited the Ladies of Loretto (IBVM) to come to Sault Ste. Marie and take charge of a girls' school. Four other groups of nuns had served here and given up. However, in the summer of 1896, the first of the Loretto nuns arrived. The remainder of the school's staff arrived about a month later on the day of the Big Fire on Water Street.

The Sisters were required to live in "the Saratoga House" on Armory Place. Then they accepted the hospitality of Mrs. Carrie Dowson at 425 Spruce St. until more permanent housing could be arranged.

On Wednesday, September 2, 1896, the door of St. Mary's parochial school for girls' was opened. The school, located on Portage Avenue across from the church, had been built in 1885, and in back of it was the former "Bishop's Palace."

On September 12, 1896, the teachers and their boarders moved into the Bishop's Palace. Shortly after moving into the new convent on Portage Avenue, the first boarders arrived from Bay Mills. These two girls began the Loretto Academy Boarding School at Sault Ste. Marie.

An increase in the number of pupils and Sisters led to the construction of a new school on Armory Place. The formal opening of the new Loretto Academy took place on September 14, 1899.

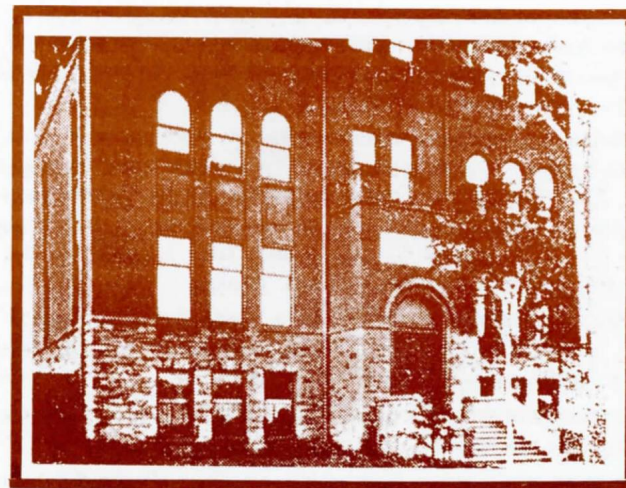
In 1909 it was again necessary to build two new additions onto the original school in order to provide sleeping quarters for the nuns and an increased number of students.

The class of 1919 was the last to have compulsory boarding regulations for seniors. This marks the end of Loretto as a boarding school.

A new chapter in the history of Loretto began in September of 1945. In that year Loretto became a co-educational high school, allowing boys to enroll for the first time in the school's long history.

In November of 1965, twenty years after Loretto Catholic Central High School became co-educational, the school once again moved for the third time. This move was to a completely new, modern building located on Marquette Avenue.

Unfortunately, this new building was to be Loretto's final home. Due to a lack of funds and changes in the State of Michigan Constitution, regarding financial aid to non-public schools, the students of "Lo-Hi" (regrettably) moved to the Sault Area Vocational High School on January 25, 1971.



Loretto Academy



St. Mary's Elementary School

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

The history of St. Mary's School is closely related to that of Loretto. For many years, from their beginnings until the construction of the new Loretto Convent and Boarding School on Armory Place in 1899, these two schools occupied the same building.

The original old school had four rooms and in back of it was the "Bishop's Palace." These were located on Portage Avenue across from the Church. The "Palace" was first the home of the Tardiff family, early settlers here. In '53 (1853) it was turned over to St. Mary's pastor as a convent for the Ursuline Sisters. It was later to serve as the original quarters for the Loretto Sisters and their pupils.

In 1902 St. Mary's Parochial Girls School was moved to another location, within the church properties. However, this move was to be its home until 1937 when it was again to move.

The present building was constructed in 1937 to serve as an elementary school offering grades one thru eight.

The closing of school in June of this year will also be the closing of St. Mary's, after 34 years of service to the city at its present location, and a longer service which began in 1896.

OVER TWO CENTURIES OF LEARNING



St. Mary's Parochial School for Girls

Pictured above is the original St. Mary's School for Girls, built in 1885, which is also the first location of the original Loretto Catholic Central High School. (See Loretto)

Pictured below is the Loretto Convent opened in 1889, showing the two additional wings added in 1909. This was the building which was vacated with the construction of Loretto Catholic Central High School on Marquette Avenue.



Loretto Convent and Academy

SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS of SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

1971

Grade	Finlayson	Garfield	Jefferson	Lincoln	Malcolm	McKinley	Washington	St. Mary's	St. Joseph's	Jr. High	Sr. High	L.S.S.C.	Total
K	25	51	31	87		41	55						290
1	24	32	31	85	14	44	54	24	23				331
2	19	33	25	82	15	38	44	25	27				308
3	23	28	24	65	22	32	45	29	34				302
4	26	34	30	69	16	31	43	31	40				320
5	23	29	26	70	13	46	56	34	27				324
6	28	26	31	60	10	50	53	21	30				314
Orth.					8								8
Spec.				21	15					14			50
7								36	39	293			368
8								30	35	264			329
9											406		406
10											410		410
11											390		390
12											321		321
C.S.											142		142
E.A.P.											56		56
Fr.												534	534
So.												393	393
Jr.												154	154
Sr.												135	135
Other												286	286
Total	168	233	198	539	113	292	355	230	255	571	1725	1502	6171

EAP - Evening Adult Program

C.S. - Community School Program

Other - Programs in Continuing Education, and other special type educational programs.

Note - The enrollments indicated above only include the educational institutions within the political boundaries of Sault Ste. Marie. They do not include the other schools within the Sault Ste. Marie Area Public School System. Other schools within the system include: Soo Township, grades K-8; Bruce Township, grades K-8; and Neebish Island School, whose enrollment and administrative duties are within Soo Township School.

