

Joliet - History

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IBVM Archives



JOLIET CHRONOLOGY FROM ANNALS  
1880 to 1917

Notes from THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN JOLIET by Rev. Norman G. Werling, O. Carm. p 1960 Carmelite Press Chicago

- p. 53 re: St. Patrick's Church - " When the Holy Cross Sisters opened a school in the Church basement in 1865 it was called St. Teresa's School. The stone building erected in 1896 as a parochial school was called MARQUETTE HALL. In 1918 this became DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL and in 1934 JOLIET CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL."

The INSTITUTE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY commonly known at that time as the Ladies of Loretto took over St. Teresa's School in 1880.

- p. 53 " The house at 31 Hickory St. was the first Catholic School, a private school conducted by two lay women."

ST PATRICK'S ON BROADWAY

pp 71 & 73 Patrick Bannon ( M.M. Bernadine's Father) was the Architect and Contractor. He also helped in the construction of churches at Lockport, Wilmington. and St. Mary's Joliet - actually built the steeple 200' high. (1849)

St. Patrick's Church was totally remodeled by Rev. Patrick W. Dunn (M.M. Aquinas' brother) when he was pastor.

Parish frontage was 400' on Hickory St. and 300' on Broadway.

**1880**

Before inviting the IBVM to St. Patrick's parish Rev. Walter Power corresponded with his niece ( , ):  
Joliet March 27, '80

"My dearest Maggie,

My letter to you today will be of a business nature.

Having consulted a few weeks ago our Administrator as to the advisability of giving over this school property to some good community; he approved of the idea, and gave me a carte blanche to do as I choose. Could it be possible that the Loretto Nuns would come to Illinois? I went to see Dr. McMullen ( our Administrator) yesterday on the subject but he was not home. I have a perfect understanding with the good Father Burke, pastor of St. Mary's in this City. Whatever sisters I get will be his also. We have in this City one thousand English speaking Catholics. Four central railroad with two others coming in. This ought to be a grand central parish for an Academy.

Before any official communication is sent to Rev. Mother Teresa I should like to know what do you and Sister Delphina think of the subject. Could there be any possibility of

getting the Loretto Nuns in this Diocese? I can do much with our good Administrator. The population of Joliet is 16,000. I will take no steps toward getting the Sisters of Charity from Emmitsburg, MD

until I hear from you. The reason I've contemplated a change here is as follows. I have lately consulted the Administrator about deeding over this school property to some good teaching community and the Diocese being averse to giving to the South Bend Community renders a change of sisters necessary. Besides the sisters of South Bend have during the past two years opened so many new houses and bought so many places throughout the States they seem to have enough to do to keep them afloat. Mother Angela has been spreading her Community a little too much. I consider this a first class point for an Academy. There are German sisters here but they will never and can never be in the way. This City is 38 miles from Chicago with four trains running to the last mentioned and the same number returning ever fore and after-noon. Even if the Loretto Nuns were to form a Novitiate here - see what an amount of good they could do. There are so good Catholics in Illinois as ever lived. This little parish of mine has given quite a number of zealous young priests to the Diocese during the last few years.

Your affectionate Uncle

W.H. Power"

After aa few days Rev. Power wrote to Mother Teresa:

Feast of St. Catherine of Siena  
St. Patrick's Church  
Joliet April 30th 1880

To Rev. Mother Teresa Dease

Rev. and dear Mother:

I write to know if you could be persuaded to make a foundation or mission in the City of Joliet. Having lately consulted our very Rev. Administrator about the advisability of giving this Convent and School property to a good teaching Community - he readily consented. The population of the place is about 16,000 - English speaking Catholics ... There are about one thousand Irish families - We have two English speaking Congregations - St. Mary's & St. Patrick's - Besides there is a large German Church in the hands of the Fransican Fathers .... Rev. F. Burke of St. Mary's is about as interested as I am in procuring a such a community as we know you to be. He is a well trained and exemplary priest. F. Burke has no superior this side of Montreal. Your nuns would find him almost generous to a fault - He would want the sisters located in St. Patrick's to teach his parochial school when he has one - which he cannot have for another year or so - for the present his children would come up here.

We have \$2,000 in hand to start - A Fair could be gotten up in the fall which would realize between 3 and 4 thousand - that is provided it was known that your community was coming - or better still if they were here to encourage it by their presence - Rock is very cheap here...a good building that would do for some time could be put up for \$10,000 - by the time it was finished you would be say about \$4,000 in debt - perhaps not even 3 - money can be had at about 6 % interest - and I promise to get my people to help pay a good portion of that interest for a few years until you get well established -

This place is 38 miles from Chicago - Chicago alone would fill the house the first year - There are 5 Railroads centering here - Direct connections with Detroit without going to Chicago. The town is thoroughly Catholic - of the one thousand families (Irish) living in the city - ...5 could be found who askew the Sacraments....the faith is as firmly rooted here as in any town in Canada that I have been in. In the good Franciscan Fathers your sisters would find good extraordinary Confessors - so taking this great fact into consideration that a community like yours is greatly wanted.... there is no reason why you should not do something for the West - seeing that Canada is so well stacked with Communities of all kinds.

We have as good priests and people out here as ever lived the Convent is adjoining the Church - the sisters can enter the Church without ever going out into the streets. The distance between St. Patrick's and St. Mary's is ...about 4 blocks - I am not rich - but it is needless to say that I would be a father to any sisters that you would send.

Yours very sincerely,"

Walter H. Power

Mother Teresa seems to have considered Joliet more seriously than other offers at that time because "...as the condition of the Novitiate showed that a branch might be established without weakening the parent tree".

L and L of Teresa Dease p. 207

1880

Aug. 30 - Rev. M. T. Dease accompanied by M. Gonzaga Gallivan, Superior, M. Dosithea Brown, and Lidwina Doyle arrived in Joliet. They had been invited by Rev. W.H. Power. The house they were to live in, previously occupied by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, was completely bare of all furnishings. They had to accept hospitality from the pastor.

"Great was the good Pastor's surprise to find they had come to found a mission almost penniless, having seen their convents in Canada and having known nothing of the poverty of their foundations.

....Reverend Mother on the other hand, was a little disappointed that somewhat better accommodation had



not been provided for the nuns, and on her homeward journey, as she stood at one of the houses of the order, and looked over the surrounding country she pointed to a small house in the middle of an uncultivated field, ...she broke silence and tears gathered in her eyes as she said, "in a place something like that I left the nuns."

L and L of Teresa Dease pp 208-209

Sept. 5 or 6 - The sisters opened St. Patrick's School in the basement of the Church with 25 pupils, both boys and girls.

Sept. 8 - The sisters took possession of their Convent. They also opened a Select School with 8 pupils.  
"Sister Lidwina...was indefatigable in trying to give a homelike appearance to the badly furnished small rooms..."

L and L of Teresa Dease p 209

Sept. 9 - Srs. Agnes McKenna and Bathilda McBrady arrived.

Sept. 10 - PATRICK AUGUSTINE FEENEY BECOMES BISHOP OF CHICAGO  
at the same time Chicago was made an ARCHDIOCESE.

Sept. 15 - Rev. Power brought the Blessed Sacrament to the Convent.

Sept. 17 - M. Angel Lynn and M. Amelia Hurley arrive.

Nov. 13 - Rev. W. F. Power gave Benediction for the first time.

Weather - The winter of 1880-89 was extremely severe. It was the worst in 25 years - "during part of that season people were obliged to have recourse to ladders from the second story for egress" - owing to the great snowdrifts. The sisters were obliged to go into debt to buy the "necessaries". (probably long woolen underwear). Then came the spring thaws and the streets were flooded. The people were compelled to use boats to get around. The sisters are greatly discouraged.

Dec. 16 - First examination is held. Frs. Power, Burke and Dunne are present. They express how well the children did.

Dec. 25 - Nuns renew vows which had been preceded by retreat. Nuns receive gift of Silver Service from "a comparative stranger"

1881 (Apparently the sisters go through another winter in St. Patrick's Convent. It is possible that this was a Balloon Frame House. (Check out.) Living conditions in that type of construction would have left much to be desired, and would not have adequately prevented the wind.)

May 13 - Rev. Mother Teresa Dease and M. Ignatia Lynn arrive.  
May 14 - ARCHBISHOP FEEHAN MAKES FIRST VISIT TO JOLIET - after which arrangements are made to move the sisters to St. Mary's Parish. Father Burke was instructed to rent a house until such time as a convent could be built. \$420 per year. "This building was the former Providence High School building housed both the sisters from St. Patrick and St. Mary's. (p. 77 First Catholic Church in Illinois.)" *error*

(See Correspondence of M. Teresa Dease concerning this period and place. Also Archbishop Feehan's correspondence.)

July 6 - The community moved from St. Patrick's to St. Mary's Parish on Cass St. (The new pastor is Fr. Francis Burke.) TR

Fr. Burke gives them a gold Chalice, Ciborium, and Candelabra. Fr. Power gives them a Silver Ciborium.

July 26 - First mass is celebrated by Rev. F. Burke. Franciscan priests are in the city of Joliet. Rev. F. Gerhardt, OSF gives the sisters retreat. (These priest are at St. Peters in Chicago. (Check with their archives for further information.)

Sept. 1 - Archbishop visits Joliet - preaches at masses - collection is taken up for the community.

Sept. 2 - Select School opens in St. Mary's Parish with 70 students.

Parochial School re-opens at St. Patrick's with 40 children

In a few days boarders arrive.

Fr. Burke visits school and promises gold medal for competition.

and About this time the numbers of students increase so rapidly that "... the nuns had to give up their cells and convert classrooms into dormitories for the night, before the bell rang for morning meditation, had to leave in perfect order shining well aired classrooms for the pupils."

IBID p 216

Sept. 17 - Srs. Beatrice O'Leary and Veronica Dickson arrive. Both are assigned to St. Patrick's School.

Sept. 26 - Archbishop Lynch, Toronto, visits - remarks on crowded conditions and suggests erecting a tent.

Oct. 28 - Sr. Dosithea Brown celebrates her Silver Jubilee.

Dec. 24 - Miss A. Walsh presents the sisters with a sewing machine.

1882

THE ACADEMY IS CHARTED with the state.



Feb. 6 - Mary Maguire obtains a Teaching Certificate. She is the first graduate to do so and also the first Postulant to the IBVM. She enters Loretto Abbey Novitiate on July 29, 1882 and receives the name of Sr. Emiliana.

Apr. 19 - Rev. Mother Teresa Dease and M. Regis Harris arrive.

Apr. 20 - Small pox panic occurs and the schools are closed for two weeks.

1882

During the spring The Community purchased the property at the corner of Ottawa and Cass Streets and commenced the erection of a Convent.

(Most likely the purpose of Rev. Mother's visit in April and perhaps related to Archbishops comment on crowded conditions when he visited Joliet.) TR

May - Strong devotion to Mary exhibited by children.

June 21 - Four children make first Communion in the sister's chapel.

June 23 - Examinations and closing exercises at St. Patrick's School.

June 24 - Two graduates, K. Zarley and M. Corliss receive their Teaching Certificate and secured positions immediately in the city schools.

June 26 - Mary Donnelly and Katie Burke receive their T.C. and began teaching the following Sept.

June 30 - Select School closing - K. Zarley wins gold medal.

July 28 - Sr. Bathilde McBrady takes Mary Maguire to Loretto Abbey Novitiate.

Aug. 4 - Annual retreat begins. Fr. Eugene, OSF

Aug. 15 - Dedication of St. Mary's Church - Archbishop visits sisters - Mass is celebrated in the sisters chapel by Bishop McMillin.

During the summer vacation the nuns taught private pupils for 5 weeks because of straightened financial reasons. (Perhaps because of the cost of building St. Mary's Academy. Check weather for summer - Joliet always had hot muggy summers) TR

Dec. 7 - THE LADIES OF LORETTO BECOME A LEGAL CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Original incorporators: Anna Gallivan ( M. Gonzaga)  
Frances Gibney (M. Dosithea)  
Mary McKenna (M. Agnes)  
Mary Magann (M. Nativity)  
Charlotte Lynn (M. Mary of the Angels)

Joliet Annals-loretto Abbey

1883

Aug. 6 - Sisters move into their new convent.

Aug. 15 - House is dedicated by Archbishop Feehan - 200 pupils are confirmed in St. Mary's Church - open house at the convent - many beautiful gifts received.

Aug. 16 - The nuns move into St. Mary's Academy  
Sept. 1 - Reopened schools - over 200 pupils.  
Dec. 27 - Pupils give concert - proceeds for the library.

St. Mary Academy's pupils continue to receive T.C. and school appointments.

#### 1884

Sept. 18 - M. Gonzaga's Jubilee is celebrated - many gifts received.  
Dec. 24 - Miss A. Walsh presents a handsome chair - Miss T. Kelly a set of lace curtains.

#### 1885

May - two students receive teaching certificates  
June 30 - Closing exercises at the Academy. (no longer called Select School) TR Many clergy present and many medals awarded.  
✓ Sept. 1 - Sacred Heart School in St. Mary's Parish is opened with 350 pupils - necessitating two extra teachers, making six teachers in all. (That is about 58 to a class) TR  
Nov. 30 - first reports given although usually distributed monthly.  
Dec. - Examinations held

#### 1886

Jan. - Sr. Bernadette Franklin arrives.  
June 25 - Parochial school closed.  
June 27 - over 100 children make First Communion in St. Mary's Church.  
Seven students of St. Mary's Academy receive TC and immediately obtain school positions.  
June 30 - Closing exercises of Academy in St. Mary's Church - there are 8 graduates.  
August 27 - M. Gonzaga Gallivan and Sr. Theodosia Sweeney (novice) left for Toronto.  
Sept. 30 - M. Eucheria Twohey replaced Sr. Theodosia.  
Sept. - Sr. Isabella Devlin arrived.  
Dec. - Sr. Hildegarde McCormick arrived to teach in the Academy.

#### 1887

Feb. 22 - Concert by pupils held in St. Mary's Church.  
May 3 - Concert given by Sacred Heart School held in Sacred Heart Church - over 600 tickets sold.  
Sept - St. Mary's Parochial School is opened.  
Staff: M. Evangelista, M. Isabella, M. Georgina, M. Catherine, M. Emiliana (first Joliet postulant) and M. Febronie Drew.  
SACRED HEART STAFF; M. Gabriel McQuillan, Marianna



Meehan, St. Gabriel Murphy, Bernard??  
(possibly Berndette Gorman or Bernadette Franklin)TR  
200 pupils.

Summer - Rev. Maurice Burke is named Bishop of Cheyenne.  
Consecrated Oct. 28  
Nov. 4 - Bishop Burke celebrates High Mass in St. Mary's  
Church and dines with priests at the Convent- and  
Confirms "all children of proper age" .  
(The nuns have lost a very good friend in Bishop Burke)TR  
October - Very Rev. T. F. Mangan is appointed Pastor of St.  
Mary's Church.  
November - Rev. J. Greene is appointed Assistant and also  
Chaplain to the Convent.

#### 1888

June - Closing exercises of the Academy were held in the Opera  
House - three graduates of which two received T.C.  
Sept. - Sacred Heart School is temporarily closed " due to  
lack of teachers".

Something occurs at this time. St. Mary's Pastor, Rev. T. F. Mangan  
is removed. Then M. St. Gabriel is sent back with M. Patricia  
O'Dea, music teacher. M. Hildegarda and Marianna are supplied from  
the Academy. On Oct. 15 the new pastor, Rev. Foster is assigned. We  
hear again from T.F. Mangan in Dec. of 1995 when he gives a check  
for two hundred dollars to the nuns.

Sacred Heart School reopens on Oct. 15th.

#### 1889

June - At the end of the school year a Concert is given in  
Sacred Heart Church. All are well pleased with it.  
Closing Exercises for the Academy were held in the  
basement of St. Mary's Church. There were two graduates.  
July 1, 1889 Mother Terese Dease died.  
August - M. Ignatia Lynn is elected Chief Superior.  
September - Gussie Ulm enters Loretto Abbey Novitiate.(Sr.  
Agnes)

#### 1890

April - Rev. M. Ignatia and Gonzaga Gallivan visit Ireland:  
Rathfarnham, Fermoy, and Mickelgate Bar in York, England.  
June - Closing exercises of the Academy are again held in the  
Opera House. There are two graduates.  
August - Sr. Alice Quinlivan dies. The first to die in Joliet.  
She taught at St. Mary's School. (When did she come?)TR

#### 1891

June - There were six graduates from the Academy. All received  
T.C.

1892 The Academy is accredited with DeKalb University. At this  
time the university was the State Normal School.

May - Joliet City flooded due to prolonged rains. Schools closed - persons obliged to go from place to place in boats. This year the Academy sent out no graduates.

August - Englewood was founded.

Sept. - Miss Rose Dunne, Sr. of Rev. P. Dunne, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, entered the Toronto Novitiate.

Mother Eucheria Magann was succeeded by M. Stanislaus Liddy as Superior.

1893

NUNS VISIT THE CHICAGO WORLDS FAIR - COLUMBIA EXPOSITION

June - two graduates both receive T.C.

1894

June - Eight Graduates - all received T.C.

August - M.M. Stanislaus succeeded by M. Angels Lynn as Superior.

1895

June - Eleven graduates - 5 received T.C.

Sr. Anita Kavanaugh arrives.

Dec. Very Rev. T.F. Mangan presents check for \$200.00.

1896

Spring and Summer - Loretto Academy extended 40 feet westward.

C. L. Wallace were the Architects.

June - There were four graduates.

Summer - Sr. Anita leaves for Hamilton.

New Stone School is built called Marquette Hall for St. Patrick's - it had steam heat and electric lighting six classrooms on the first floor - more than 300 pupils - there was a large hall on the second floor.

1897

Jan. 2 - Meeting in Joliet the Corporation proposes borrowing \$12,000 for purchase of Englewood Property N 1/2 of Lot 10. (Corp.minutes LA)

June - Two graduates

Oct. 19 - Sr. Anita Kavanaugh died at Hamilton.

Nov. 27 - Silver Jubilee of Sr. Angels Lynn.

1898

Feb. 5 - T. F. Mangan, Pastor (St. Mary's ?) dies.

Sr. Zita Monahan died. She did domestic work at St. Mary's.

End of Feb. - Rev. W.J. McNamee was made Pastor.

June - There were ten graduates - nine received T. C.

1899

June - Eight graduates - four received T. C.



1902

July 12 - Archbishop Feehan dies.

1903 The Academy is accredited with the University of Illinois in Urbana.

March 10 - Most Rev. James E. Quigley is installed as Archbishop of Chicago.

1905

May 30 - Silver Jubilee of the nuns arrival in Joliet is celebrated. Archbishop Quigley, and Bishop Burke are present. Many priests are also present at the Mass of Jubilee

150 former pupils attended the banquet. Nuns from Chicago were honored guests.

1908

Dec. 2 - Minutes of Ladies of Loretto - meeting in Joliet - proposed and passed that they purchase property on Stewart ave. 6527, 6533, 6535 or lot 11 and 1/2 of lot 12. (This property would become the Convent and High School Englewood.)

1913

Opening of St. Bernard School, Ridgway - September

1914

January Mother Stanislaus Liddy writes the following letter

" Loretto Abbey  
Wellington Place  
Toronto January 2, 1914

Most Rev. Edward Quigley D.D.

Most Rev. and Dear Father

You will doubtless remember two of our sisters calling on your Grace last September to represent our inability to supply all Religious teachers in the Parochial Schools of Joliet. At that time we offered to share the work with any other Community coming and still willing to do so, but Rev. F. Murray, Pastor of St. Mary's Joliet, signified that no Community would come under those conditions.

We have no fault to find with the Rev. Pastor, who has been uniformly kind to our nuns, nor with the place in which we have labored for over a quarter of a century, with, we trust, results pleasing in the sight of God, but we cannot promise to provide all religious teachers, as we are obliged to engage some secular help in all our schools. Trusting that your Fatherly wisdom may instruct us what to do and praying God to bless you in all your work this new year, and with best wishes

I remain  
Your Graces most obedient child

Mary J. Stanislaus"  
(Abbey Archives)

February 14 - His Grace replies"

Archdiocese of Chicago  
Chancery Office  
740 Cass Street

Chicago, Ill. Feb. 14th, 1914

Rev. Mother Stanislaus  
Wellington Place  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Rev. Mother:

I have consulted Father Murray on the situation in Joliet, and I find that it is going to be very difficult to get other sisters to take the schools which your Community is prepared to relinquish, and of course in addition the Reverend Pastors of the other Parishes would object to the change for obvious reasons.

If possible therefore, I would like to confer with you on the subject personally at your convenience, anytime you would have occasion to pass this way.

Yours truly in Xtc.,

J.E. Quigley  
(Abbey Archives)

1915

July 10 - Archbishop Quigley died

1916

Jan. 25 - Archbishop George W. Mundelein is installed

April 11 - Rumors are afloat and there is much consternation among the Alumnae that the Academy is to be closed. Several Alumnae decide to approach the Archbishop with a plea that it remain open.

" 202 Herkimer St.  
Joliet, Illinois

Dear Rev. Mother,

Saturday morning a delegation of four had a half hour audience with the Archbishop at which time we presented the petitions and the enclosed sentiments that I am sending.

From the beginning to present these petitions to His Grace and though we were told by Mother Felix they



would do no good

the signers were anxious they be delivered as intended. So I felt as the President of the Alumnae I owed this to the signers. It was this as well as the hope that our small efforts might do good that prompted me to select the delegation without any knowledge of the sisters.

We were rather put out when His Grace told us that he was requested to pay no attention to the petitions. He said it was rather unfortunate that a mistake was made. However, papers were signed, but the sisters could stay forever as far as he was concerned at the Academy.

carried I hope you will not be peeved with me but trust you will look upon my actions in the spirit in which I carried them out.

I trust that this cloud may have a silver lining and that many years will pass before the Sisters will leave Joliet.

Sincerely,

Charlotte M. Johnson

President Loretto Alumnae of Joliet

The signers presented the following petition.

" Ladies of Loretto because of their inability to furnish sufficient teachers to meet the growing demands of the parochial schools, have been directed to leave Joliet where for the past thirty-six years they have been the leading workers in the cause of Catholic Education.

During those years which were years of hardship labor and heroic sacrifice they not only taught in the schools of all the English speaking parishes but also succeeded in building up an Academy and Boarding School which today is in the front ranks of Catholic Educational Institutions for young ladies. The majority of the younger generation of Catholic men and women of Joliet owe at least a portion of their education to these good sisters. Their convent and Academy which is located in the heart of the downtown district is a very valuable property but it will be years before it can be disposed of without great financial loss. But the loss which the Catholic Citizens of Joliet will sustain, if it be abandoned, cannot be measured in money. For then Catholic young girls desirous of a High School education will either have to forego their ambition or enter the Public High School. The only other Catholic Academy, because of its location in the extreme Northwest portion of the city is not available for the majority of the Catholic young girls. And very few parents in Joliet can afford to send their daughters away to Boarding School.

The attendance at St. Mary's Academy is increasing yearly. It fills an important place in the Catholic life in our City and for the sake of the cause of higher religious education the Ladies of Loretto should be

permitted and encourage to remain and continue their good work.

The Committee desires simply to present to your Grace the situation which confronts the Sisters and the people of Joliet. We represent the Alumnae Association of St. Mary's Academy and we are confident that we voice the sentiments not only of the members of our Association but those of every former pupil of the Ladies of Loretto and of the Catholics of Joliet in general.

We earnestly pray that the Sisters be permitted to remain with us and even though they be withdrawn from the parochial schools that they may continue their Academy and boarding school and that our city may not be deprived of that wonderful influence for good which these refined, cultured and noble women have exercised for so many years.

We come without the solicitation and even without the knowledge of the Sisters. We present the matter to Your Grace confident that whatever action you see fit to take will be for the best interest of all.

Committee: Charlotte M. Johnson  
Mrs. Helen Haywood Wilhelmi  
Miss Jennie Holkyard  
Miss Emma Ulm  
(from Abbey Archives)

July 18 - Remaining in Joliet still seems to be in question. Following is a letter from Rev. T.F. Quinn, Pastor of St. Mary's Parish

" Joliet, July 18th, 1916

My Dear Rev. Mother,

Nothing could please me more than your kind letter of the 10th inst. and I am ever so grateful for the arrangements you have made to keep the schools, and I

know  
have

you will have no reason to regret your action. I been most impressed by the members of your community here and I can assure that I shall be most kind and most considerate toward them.

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you sometime, with sincere thanks, I remain

Very respectfully yours,  
Thomas F. Quinn"  
(Abbey Archives)

IBVM's from St. Patrick's Parish were  
Mary Teresa Kelly  
Bernadine Bannon  
Callista McGuire  
Imelda Wall  
St, Vincent Clark

1917

June - Last Graduation from St. Mary's Academy, Joliet was held. The total number of graduates from this school were 236 and 153 received teaching certificates.

September - At this time there seems to still be some consideration of the nuns remaining from the following letter from Archbishop Mundelien.

" Archdiocese of Chicago  
Chancery Office  
740 Cass Street

Chicago, Ill. Sept.10th, 1917

Rev. Mother Mary J. Stanislaus,  
Loretto Abbey  
Wellington Place  
Toronto, Canada

Dear Mother Provincial:

I beg to acknowledge herewith the receipt of your letter of the 31 ult. which reached me some days ago and in which you inform of the decision of your Community to make application for the establishment of a High School in the City of Joliet under the care of the Ladies of Loretto.

Supplementing the conversation I had with you, I herewith approve of this off of yours and I grant to your Community the permission to establish such a High School which, however, shall be in a section of Joliet easily accessible to all parts, this Institution to be erected at the expense of your Community. Naturally I shall be glad to give you every assistance that I can, both by my counsel and by my support, for your sisters are thereby relieving me, to some extent, of the burden that I must bear and the responsibility that I have to provide for the proper Religious Education of the children of that City in which your Community has labored so long. With the zealous care of the sisters and with the support of the local clergy and the cooperation of the faithful, so many of whom have been your pupils in the past, I have no doubt whatever that the new High School will; prove a success not only for the good of religion but also for the good of your Community.

I pray that God may bless you and your Sisters in all your work and especially in this new undertaking of yours. With every good wish, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours in Christ

George W. Mundelein  
Archbishop of Chicago "  
(Abbey Archives)

The following information is taken from a newspaper account in the Abbey Archives, name unknown, of 1917.

"St. Mary's Academy, for 37 years the property of the Ladies of Loretta, was purchased yesterday by the Rt. Rev. George Mundelien, head of the Chicago Catholic Archdiocese. ...The consideration named in the transfer of the property was not made public.

The Ladies of Loretta, who established the Academy in 1880, will remain in charge of the school which will be converted into a parochial, auxiliary to St. Mary's Church, The Rev. Father T. f. Quinn announced last night.

....According to a new plan completed ... commercial departments for boys and girls will be included in parochial curricula. A separate High School, in the same building, will be conducted by the Ladies of Loretta who will teach in both the elementary and high school departments.

St. Mary's School, formerly the parish school of St. Mary's Church, was released by the Loretta Sisters last summer.

....With the sale of the property to the Chicago Prelate, and the creation of a parochial school, a new distinction between St. Mary's High School and elementary school has been made.

....The high school which will be conducted by the Loretta Sisters will be opened to all children of the city. The parochial school will be maintained in the interest of the children of St. Mary's Parish. ....



IBVM Archives