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A History of
IBVM presence in Sault Ste.
Marie from 1896 to 1921

IBVM Archives

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Loreto Academy
Sault St. Marie
Michigan

May 1896 -

Rev. Brother Augustus Lynn
and Brother Loyola Byron
visited Sault St. Marie
to determine its suitability
for a "Mission".

July 15. 1896

Brother Gungaya Gallion
and Brother Stanislaus Liddy

left Canada to open the
new foundation.

They remained three weeks
at Saratoga House, Corner
of Armory Place and Bingham.
Brother Gonzaga sprained his
ankle and Brother Stanislaus
was named Superior.

Aug. 13. Brother St. Michael
and Sister Germaine
were added to the Community
and for one week all
were domiciled with
Mrs. Carrie Dawson
on Spence St.

Brother Gonzaga was recalled
to Toronto and the small

Community moved to
133 E. Spruce St. ~~W.~~ After
two weeks, Mother M. Euphrosyne
and Mother Agnes Ulm
arrived, and the Community
was completed Aug. 29
when Mothers Isabella,
Frances and Sebastian
arrived from Toronto.

The Parochial School
opened on Wednesday, Sept. 2.
The Teachers were, M. Isabella,
M. Agnes, M. Frances and
M. Euphrosyne. There were
206 pupils and within a
month the number increased to
300.

On September 12, 1896 The Community moved from 133 Spruce St. to the house on Portage Ave. behind the school. A description of this home by one of the inmates states:

"Our house on Portage Ave. behind the school contains, as you enter, to the right, chapel and parlor; to the left, music-room and dining room for men and two boarders who had arrived Sept. 16.; at the back, a kitchen and pantries; up stairs, two rooms to the right, Com'ty ^{of Pen.} and Supervisor's cell; to the

left, children's dormitory
and cloak room; Above
this, the attic containing
four small camp beds and
cabinets made from packing
boxes, two wash basins and
an alcove for heating purposes.
This house had been the Palace of Bishop Ramsey.

~~The~~ October 8. - Rev. Father Connolly
celebrated the first mass
offered in the Convent chapel.
October 25. - His Excellency Bishop
Vertin, accompanied by
Father Connolly, visited
the Community. The Bishop
spoke encouragingly and
offered the Sisters plenty
of land.

The first winter was cold

and stormy. Father Rector^{o.} enlivened the recreations by bringing over a "gramophone" and a pair of snow shoes. On January 16, a third boarder arrived.

During the winter, Mother ~~Stimulus~~ considered plans for the building of a convent. In April, she went to Toronto and returned with Sister M. Eulalia who celebrated her silver jubilee a month later. The festivities were graced by Rev. Fathers ^{Wm.} Connolly, McDonald and ^{of} ~~Gagnier~~.

During the spring, many men came to see Mother ~~Stimulus~~ relative to plans and building. Mr. Chisholm, Mr. Riley, Mr. Audette, Mr. ~~Graves~~.

The building was delayed because part of the required land belonged to Mr. Gross.

The first summer was spent happily. The annual retreat was given by Rev. Father Connolly and classes were resumed Sept. 1, 1897. On February 27, 1898, - Father Connolly spoke to the Ladies of the Parish at the conclusion of their Retreat begging their assistance and cooperation in the work of furthering the opportunities for the education of their children. Father proposed the building of a high school and at once he wished it to be for boys and girls and financed by the Parish.

On May 17, Brother Stanislaus
told the Community that the
Nuns were to sever connections
with the Society at the close
of the term in June.

Father Filiatrault, Provincial
of the Jesuits called on
Brother Stanislaus May 25.
A month of doubt as to whether
the nuns were withdrawing
or remaining passed. Then a
telegram announced the
coming of Rev. Brother Ignatius
on June 29. Rev. Father Pottet
had been in Montreal attending
a Jubilee and had called
at the Abbey on his return.

The result of the visit was
that the Nuns were to remain
for a year at least as no other

Mother Stanislaus left
for Toronto en route to Chicago
on Aug. 25. On September 1st
the new Superior,
M. M. Christina, arrived.

Community could be procured
within a year. So, rather than
necessitate the return to the
Public Schools of so many
children, Archbishop Walsh
afterwards, advised Rev.
Mother to keep the Mission
for a year any way and
time would tell.

From the founding of the
Mission, difficulties were
many and opposition great.
The School reopened Tuesday,
September 6, 1898. On
Sept. 15. Ward came from
Toronto to Father Connolly
that the building of the
Convent was to "go on".

A Fair for the "Building Fund" was held from Sept. 12 to 17. \$1100 was realized. Firms in the City and in Maquette were offering plans. Those of Mr. Riley were accepted as he gave the sums to understand a suitable building could be erected for \$1000. This was found impossible and finally it was agreed to erect a building that would cost \$8000.

At this time the Community was Incorporated. Luther E. S. B. Sutton being in charge.

On October 28, the deeds transferring the land from the Bishop of Marquette to the Ladies of Loretto were received. The value of the land was \$10,000.00.

The deeds were signed by M. M. Christian, M. M. Francis and M. St. Michael.

Some of Rev. Father Connolly's enthusiasts had gone when all was finally settled.

On Nov. 7, 1898 men began to dig the ground for the new convent. There were some delays but work gradually progressed. The "Charter" was obtained Nov. 17, "at Christmas time, Bishop Vertin

sent the monks a gift of \$200.00
for the building.

The Christmas vacation was
enlivened by Father Rattot's gram-
phone, Clara Rain's camera
and the ministrations of
Father Dauchy who brought
medicines to those who had
colds. Father Cote sang
and Father Garnier gave
the renovator's triduum.

After a severe winter, work
was resumed on the Convent
Building on April 25, 1899.

On Sept. 14, 1899 we moved
into the new house. The only
part of the building that
was ready was the top floor.
There were great preparations
for the "Blessing" which was

to be on Sunday, Sept. 17, by
Most Rev. Bishop Eis, newly
consecrated Bishop of the diocese.
"From the Evening News"

The solemn consecration and
formal opening of Loretto Academy
on Army Place took place Sunday
with appropriate services.

Most Rev. Frederick Eis, the newly
consecrated bishop of the diocese
presided. Bishop Eis was assisted
by W. O'Reilly, an eloquent
Missouri divine, who delivered
the dedicatory address.

On September 29, 1899 two masses
were said in the Convent Chapel
where, from that time, the Rhine
Sacrament was reserved.

Nov. 2, 1899 - There has been con-
siderable excitement among the

French go some time past. They want certain privileges, a high mass on Sundays, Sermons etc. The Jesuit Provincial arrived but no settlement yet.

Father Connolly left the "Soc" for Montreal on Nov. 5. Some think the trouble between the French and English ^{may} have been the cause of his leaving.

Sunday Nov. 26. Father Werlin came to be Pastor of the English speaking congregation, Father Carri Pastor of the French and Father ~~Peter~~ is Rector and Superior.

On September 23, 1901, Mother Christina obtained the lot known as "Cot's Corner" on Rimbal St. for \$2100.

On March 9, 1903, the pews were put in our chapel.

Plans for remodelling and enlarging the original school were prepared by Father Donnan. The work was completed by Rev. A. Gagnier.

On December 1, 1904, the new Parish School was formally opened. The little red house in which the Rev. lived, has been repaired and moved out a little. It presents a very nice appearance.

April 23, 1905. - "An addition has been put to our house. The two nearest cottages from the "Corner lot" were ^{joined} placed behind the house. The upper part made a dormitory for the younger children. The lower portion a recreation room and little school room.

In the Autumn of 1908, the Boarding School numbered 48 and there was promise of a growing city. The original Convent was a tall structure

but narrow, and, one side
of the foundation gave
evidence of resting on
quicksand. There was
need to buttress the walls
in some way, and, Brother
Christians who had returned
as Superior, envisioned additions
to the original house.

The subject was presented
to Rev. Brother Ignatius in
the form of an address by
one of the pupils when
Rev. Brother visited the Convent
in the Fall of 1908.

Owing to the need, the Bishop
consented to ^{the} contracting ^{of} a
debt to not exceed ^{\$}10,000.00.
However when the additions
were completed the sum
was found to be greater,
and instead ^{of} obtaining a
loan for 3% interest, it
was found necessary to
pay 7%.

The new building was ideal
when completed, but the "Seed"
did not grow. The Water Power
failed to fulfil its promise
and the tuition rates were

too low.

The Jesuit Fathers were replaced
by the Secular Priests in
1914 and Dean Stunglin,
Pastor and devoted friend
studied the situation.

He asked that two
of the Nuns be permitted
to visit the chief cities
of the Upper Peninsula
for the purpose of ad-
vertising the Academy
and interviewing prospective
patrons. His request
was granted. In preparation

Father Stenglein sent letters
to the Pastors of the chief
towns and cities authorizing
the purpose of the Sisters'
visit and asking Pastors
to have information and
hospitality awaiting them.
To the Sisters Father gave
letters of introduction and
money to finance the venture.

They were away one month
visiting Namistigue, Escombe,
Marquette, Negaunee, Ishpeming,
Wakefield, Iron Mountain,
Baraga, Assinibois, Houghton,
Hancock, Calumet, Lake Linden

^{Hubbell}
and ~~Zimmerman~~. Owing to
Dean Stunglin's foresight,
kindness awaited them
at each stopping place.
Two boarders who took
all the "extras" repaid
their expenditure. The
Sisters learned that there
was no ^{longer} need for a "Residential"
High School. Each little
town, even Nottawa with
eleven families, was having
its own, furnished by the
State of Michigan.

Shortly after this finding

a new high school was
built at Sault Ste. Marie.
It was a strong attraction
for those whose vision failed
to grasp the true beauty
and lasting worth of Catholic
Education.

In 1921, Loreto Academy
was accredited by the
University of Michigan and
since that time its honor
has been untouched until now.

No institution has more
loyal Alumnæ. Those who
have studied within its
walls have realized that

it is Our Lady's House,
and see her initials M.P.A.
Maria Regina Angelorum,
on its apartments.

Under her sweet guidance,
awkward, timid children
have been transformed.
As young ladies graced
with poise and culture,
they have carried the
inspiration of her life
to the world without.
Many have won fame

and wondrously applause,
others are devoted mothers of families,
while over forty have
turned aside to follow
Our Lady as a special
escort in various Communities.

Three who have worked
here have given their
lives, for income never
even equaled necessary
expense. Yet, Lucette has
lived. Father Rollot, Father
Gagnieur, Father Tourangeau,
Father Brault and Jean
Stengelin have been true.

friends not only in the
past but even now.

The kindly interest
of our beloved Pastor
Monsieur Jacques is
a source of encouragement
and hope.

As Loretta's work finished
As her task ended and
must then turn labor in
her interest hand the torch
to some one else?

A new season gleams
in the future.

Loretta Junior College.

During the past month
one of our Alumnae
approached a member
of the Community on this
subject.

She had attended a meeting
of "The Grange" Mr. Osburn,
the Master Farmer, complained
that South St. Marie had
no offering for the young
people of this region
beyond High School.

The County Normal & The
Training School for Nurses

have been discontinued.
Mr. Malcom has been
asked to look into the
cost and other items
connected with ^{the establishment of} a Junior
College - Why not Lovett?
We have accommodations
for resident students -
Mr. Button said our
Charter was granted under
the old Mining Law now
obsolete, and, that with
it were enjoyed privileges

that are now obtained only
by an endowment of \$250,000.

What are those privileges?

Our Annals state that our
institution obtained by
that Charter the right
to ^{have its students} enter the University
of Michigan without
examination. Can we
not do some research and
find out what that really
meant?

Surely the trials of those who
have gone, the battles with

cold, with fatigue, with
sickness, and with threatened
failure. Should encourage
^{May we not hope}
us, that on this Feast of
our lovely Mother, in her
own City, her own School
may be rededicated to
a new life which may
attract many to the source
of happiness and peace,
"Justice", the fruit of
a Catholic Education.

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