

THE NEW CONVENT

We humbly ask God to continue to bless our work for Catholic Education.

In 1950 the parishes of the city began to operate Loretto as a central school. The campaign to raise funds to acquire ownership of the property and to expand the facilities according to necessity, resulted in \$49,681.54, which has been used for the purposes announced. (Note that the accepted practice throughout the U.S. is that parishes build and maintain schools and convents.)

Purchase of property	30,000.00	Property for future expansion	12,100.00
Campaign expenses	585.92	To cover deficit in operation	3,113.70
Capital expenditures on bldg	1,100.00	Interest on mortgage	2,781.92
c o n t i n u e d		TOTAL.....	49,681.54

Thanks to the late Georgianna Dawson for her bequests which made it possible to plan the first permanent unit in our long range plan, A NEW CONVENT. This is logical for the good of the Sisters and to make available the necessary space for classrooms for our growing enrollment.

The Sisters teaching at St. Mary's School are half of the community of Sisters; hence St. Mary's will accept responsibility for half the cost of the new building. The other half is divided on a percentage basis, considering the numbers of students and the financial potential: Nativity 9%, St. Joseph's 45%, and St. Mary's 65%.

Parish payments to the NEW CONVENT FUND have been on this percentage basis, for a start. St. Mary's will accept its full share in due time. The fund thus far:

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Nativity	37,033.33	Property for site, taxes...	10,098.56
St. Joseph's	20,318.49	Architect, to date	5,400.00
St. Mary's	50,796.10	Miscellaneous	73.01
TOTAL	78,148.01	TOTAL	15,571.57
-	15,571.57		
	62,576.44		

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In the transaction for the purchase of the Loretto property, part of this fund was used to pay up the balance due on interest, insurance, and the rental arrangement in effect since 1950. This amounted to \$9,731.07, which leaves \$52,845.37 now on hand. The lowest bids, opened May 26, 1955, totalled \$163,753.00. After thorough consultation on all the factors involved, it was decided to proceed. Ground was broken by Bishop Thomas L. Moa on June 2, in the presence of the largest class (63) in Loretto history, on its way to the Commencement Ceremonies.

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WHAT IS A CONVENT? It is not only a residence, it is a community institution, including workshops (community room), refectory, laundry, reception offices, and a semi-public chapel. There will be rooms for 24 Sisters. (Note: a 24 unit motel would cost very much more.)

We wish it could be a lot more spacious, but by necessity it was designed for utmost simplicity and efficiency. Some ask: why not build it next to Loretto school? Answer: there is not nearly enough space there.

Note that this is the first time in history that the people of St. Mary's are faced with the task of building a convent.

PLEASE PRAY TO GOD FOR SUCCESS AND THE COOPERATION OF ALL THE PEOPLE !!