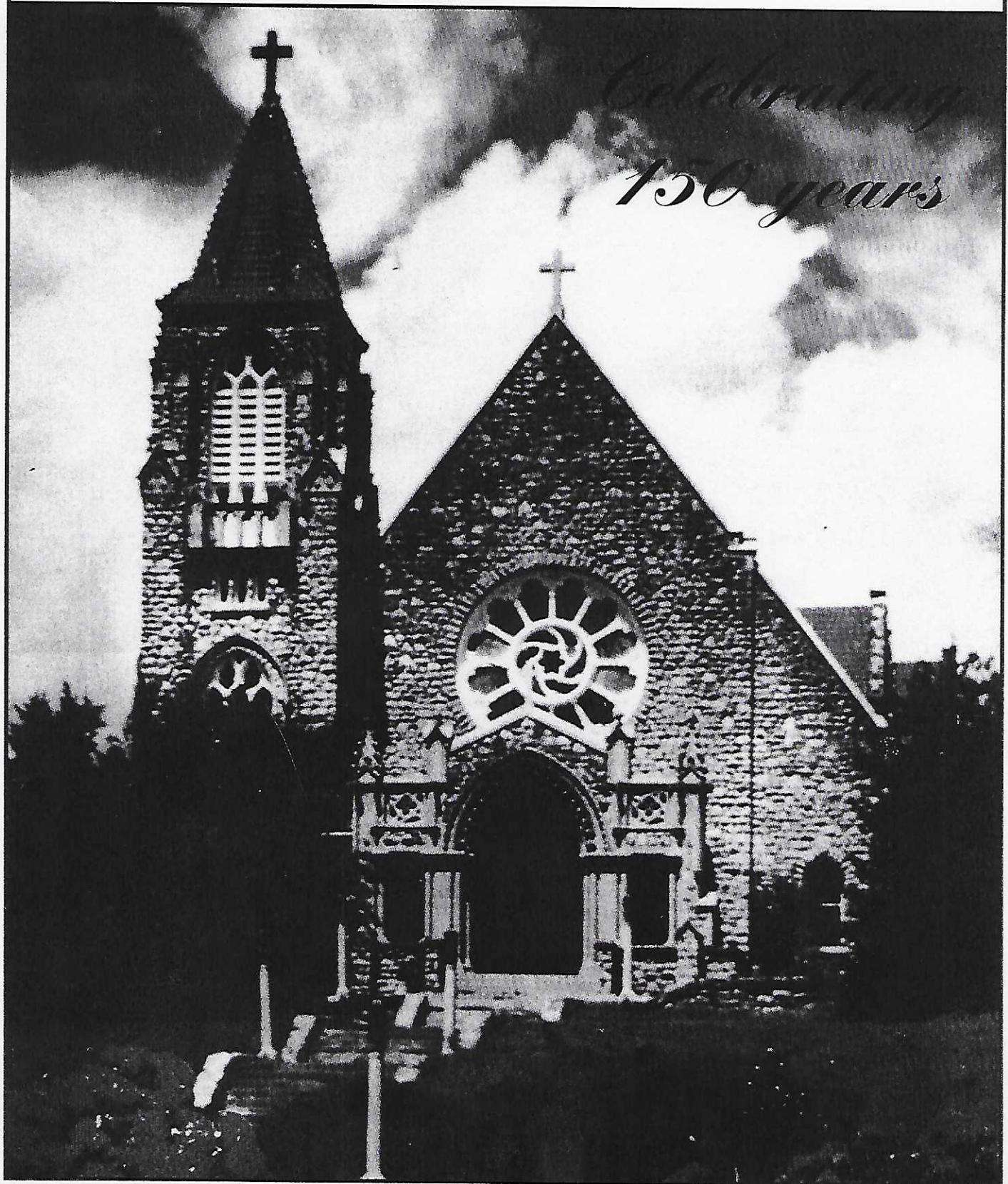


THE ST. MARY'S MAGAZINE

A publication for our Academy, college, Parish, Alumni & Friends

Vol. IV, No. 1, Christmas 1998



THE SECOND FOUNDING OF ST. MARY'S BY THE SSPX

1978-1998

1978

June 1 -- Early volunteer "Brother Augustine" (Donald Bissaillon, R.I.P. Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, December 11, 1990) begins his *Chronicle* of the new St. Mary's College a few weeks before his actual arrival on the evening of July 13. He types a page per day on a tiny old portable typewriter, and leaves a fascinating record of the first two years of the "new" St. Mary's. He will be largely responsible for setting up and organizing the office. On June 2, a friend writes him, "When we obtain the property, we will have our work cut out for us, though. There should be no one getting into mischief because there just will not be any time to do so." Certainly this summarizes the first months' experience of the new "pioneers" (Br. Augustine's term) of St. Mary's.



"Brother Augustine" writes the daily chronicle of St. Mary's College.

June 23, 1978, Vigil of St. John the Baptist, 3:00 p.m. -- St. Mary's College, comprising the 27-acre main campus and its buildings, becomes the property of the Society of Saint Pius X.

This date is the anniversary date of the acquisition and second founding of St. Mary's College by the Society of St. Pius X.



SMA First Communicants -- May 5, 1982, with Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre and (left to right) Sr. Mary Augustine, Sr. Mary Jude, and Sr. Mary St. Anne.

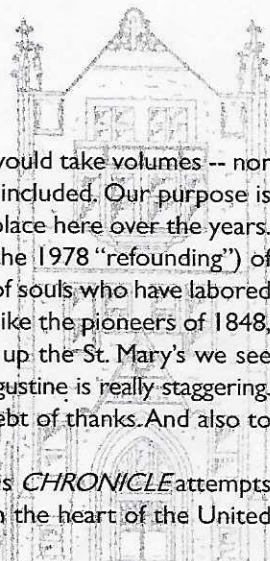
Summer -- There are only a handful of interested Traditionalists in the area when the Society acquires the campus, but immediately volunteers begin arriving from across the U.S. to help with the tremendous clean-up and repair work to be done. On weekends, more volunteers come from Missouri and other parts of Kansas to help work both on buildings and at the major undertaking of brush removal. Some of the early volunteers move here permanently and become the earliest parishioners. Families, confident that St. Mary's will become a traditional Catholic center and school, begin moving here (and have never stopped). Early projected plans for St. Mary's include a seminary, retreat house, and of course a school.

TO OUR READERS:

This *CHRONICLE* does not purport to be a complete history of St. Mary's College -- which would take volumes -- nor the last word on every question that may arise! Not *every* event of *every* year can possibly be included. Our purpose is to give some highlights and milestones along the way, and a general overview of what has taken place here over the years.

Nor have we attempted to list names of everyone who participated in the work (especially the 1978 "refounding") of St. Mary's. This is not to slight anyone, but it would be impossible to mention each of the legions of souls who have labored here. We wish to convey the impression of the combined effort of the "pioneers" of 1978, who, like the pioneers of 1848, started out with *nothing*, and in a place that had been neglected and run-down, and who built up the St. Mary's we see today. It was an immense task! The sheer labor detailed day by day in the *Chronicle* of Brother Augustine is really staggering. To these modern "pioneers" of St. Mary's the parishioners and students of today owe a great debt of thanks. And also to those who have continued these Herculean labors down through twenty years!

So, while it is impossible to cover everything that has occurred here in a century and a half, this *CHRONICLE* attempts to give you some idea of the story of the "old" and "new" St. Mary's -- ever Our Lady's place in the heart of the United States.



July 13 -- At a press conference on the grounds, Fr. Bolduc informs local media persons of the reopening of St. Mary's College as a Catholic institution. At this time, no priest lives full-time at St. Mary's; they are all on circuit, based in Dickinson, Texas, and arrive at St. Mary's weekly to offer a Sunday Mass.

July/August -- A "Restoration Office" is set up on the ground floor, east side of the Library Building, as well as a temporary chapel, which is soon moved up to the second floor. Work is being done all over campus to make the buildings habitable. The reader must imagine a property of 13 multistory buildings that have been both abandoned and vandalized -- dirty, junky, overgrown with brush. In some buildings there are broken windows where pigeons and animals have gotten in. *Everywhere* repairs are needed to plumbing, wiring, radiators, along with cleaning, plastering and painting. It is not practical to revive the huge central heating system operated from the old Powerhouse, so it is necessary to lay gas lines underground and install boilers in each building -- a major work of the first summer being to get heat into a few buildings before winter. The Library/Administration Building, the old Infirmary (Convent), and Bellarmine are the first to have heat -- sometime in November after the really cold weather has set in. Everything must be done at once!

The first building immediately made habitable is the old Infirmary (present Convent) where workers and guests will have their rooms and community kitchen/dining room. Volunteers paint, put down new tile floors, and do electrical work. Clearing continues on the underbrush-choked grounds. Although large areas such as the Quadrangle had been mowed during the "abandoned years," with each season, the mowers had worked farther from the buildings, and more and more brushy growth had advanced outward from the walls. Many stories of discovering sidewalks hidden under weeds, or unsuspected doors hidden behind ivy, as in the case of the gymnasiums, are told by these modern pioneers. There are many poison ivy cases. Early workers tell of the large snakes that slithered out, retreating as civilization returned to the campus. From the beginning, the Rosary is recited each evening in the temporary chapel, and later, morning prayers are added on days when there is no priest present to offer Mass.

JULY DAYS OF THE NEW ST. MARY'S Restoration work, 1979:

One young worker, now a traditional Benedictine priest, Fr. Cyprian, O.S.B., retold some of his memories in a 1986 interview.

"In late spring of '79, I packed my tools in my pickup and made the long drive out here. It was quite an adventure. When I came through the stone gates of St. Mary's, I knew I was home, and I was overcome with an inward peace."

The restoration of the buildings was just getting underway, so there was plenty of work for the young carpenter! "I was given a place to live and a workshop with two other young men. Our workshop was in the basement of Bellarmine Hall and we were busy restoring the buildings that were most needed for school, which was to open that fall of '79.

"Loyola Hall was the worst. It was in the most exposed position on top of the hill to suffer from the weather, and there were so many windows out that birds had gotten in. It was a mess. Bellarmine was in good condition. However, there was a problem in that building with buckled wooden floors, which we had to replace."

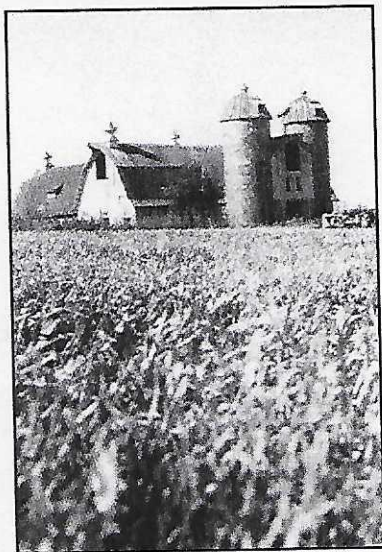
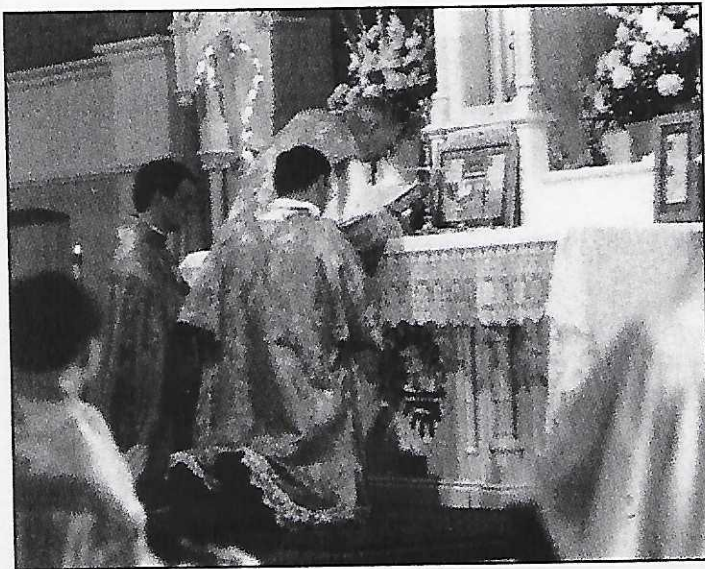
He explained how they discovered the steam pipes under the quadrangle by which the Jesuits had transferred steam heat from the power plant up the hill to Bellarmine and Loyola. It was not economically feasible to restore the old system, now inoperative. He told of buildings without heat, and of helping install boilers to restore heat to Canisius Hall.

He also built furniture for the dormitories and helped restore plumbing in order to have hot water. Installation of the present cafeteria in the basement of Bellarmine spelled the end of the workshop in that location. "We found charts in the cabinets of the room on the first floor of McCabe that told us it had been a woodworking classroom at one time, so we set up the present workshop there." And he mounted the saw blade marking the entrance to the workshop.

Father concluded, "I found the family spirit at St. Mary's a beautiful thing. We workers all ate at the same table; we prayed together. We came from all over the country and for diverse reasons, but we realized that St. Mary's was the place where all our desires converged."

August 6, Sunday -- Visiting Fr. Carl Pulvermacher, O.F.M. Cap. offers 8:00 a.m. Mass in the temporary chapel on the second floor of the Library Building. This room remains the temporary chapel for a year, and the apartment to the north is fitted up as a sacristy. Word arrives of the death of Pope Paul VI; the Library entrance is draped in black, and prayers are offered for the repose of his soul.

August 13, Sunday -- Newly ordained Fr. Terence Finnegan offers Mass in the temporary chapel. Each week there are new people; today the congregation numbers 60. Coffee and donuts are now served after Mass.



Above left: Archbishop Lefebvre celebrates Mass at St. Mary's on May 2, 1982.

Above right: The three first graduates of SMC after its reopening in 1981. Gregory Geeslin, Elizabeth Oberg (the first woman ever to graduate from SMC!) and William Dredger obtained their Bachelor of Arts diploma on May 13, 1984.

Left: The old farm. Photo taken in the early 1980's.

August 15, Feast of the Assumption -- First public outdoor devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary since the acquisition of the property by the SSPX. After an evening Mass, a "living Rosary" and candlelight procession takes place in the circular driveway, then moves into the Immaculata, where the high altar is spotlighted, to make an act of consecration to the Blessed Virgin and recite her Litany.

August 19 -- Donated books are sorted out -- these form the beginnings of the new St. Mary's College Library. Over the coming months book donations come in by the boxload and truckload! Plans are to open the schools in Bellarmine Hall in the Fall of '79. For now, a large room on the third floor of the Library Building is cleaned for use as the first kindergarten classroom.

August 22 -- The first formal Sunday Bulletin (one copy) is typed by Br. Augustine and posted. Local persons come to re-donate items they had purchased when SMC closed in 1967. Church furnishings are acquired or donated from various sources. Workers also begin occupying rooms in the "Faculty" (College) Building. Individuals and groups of local persons constantly stop by to look around; elderly Jesuits drop in; and a constant stream of visiting traditionalists from all over the U.S. and foreign countries make their appearance, sometimes increasing Sunday Mass attendance by 15 persons.

August through Autumn -- When the SSPX acquired the property, the Immaculata was empty except for the three marble altars, the baptismal font, and the great Limpas Crucifix. Now, work is being done continuously on the Immaculata. Some providential offers of assistance come from local persons. There is water damage from the leaky roof, termite damage, and the organ needs much repair. Plastering, painting, and repair carpentry is ongoing inside and out. Trips are made to find matching roof tiles. Plans are to have the chapel ready for use in November.

September 12 -- The first school of the new St. Mary's (a kindergarten) opens on the top floor of the Library Building. Two little boys are soon joined by a little girl. Several ladies are the first teachers of this group. *[Of these, Claudia Shibler continues as SMA Kindergarten teacher to the present day --1998.]*

Late September -- Fr. Bolduc purchases the entire contents of Sacred Heart Church being closed in St. Louis, including a marble pulpit and baptismal font for St. Mary's, which volunteers bring in truck loads to St. Mary's. In November, another ornate baptismal font will be acquired from a cafe owner in a Kansas town.

At this time there are 16 workers staying on campus. Elderly (Grandpa) Mr. Peter Gayner, Sr., continues his never-ending war against poison ivy and ragged shrubbery.

October -- New concrete is poured for some of the steps to the Immaculata and around Coppens, last called the "Museum Building" by the Jesuits.

October 3 -- Truck and crane arrive from St. Louis bearing the 2.5 ton Sacred Heart Statue.

October 8 -- The first Open House and Picnic is attended by 175 people. The old Refectory in Canisius Hall is used for the meal; sports activities are arranged for the children. A bell is donated, to be hung in the tower atop the "Museum Building" (Coppens).

October 11 -- The historic 100-year-old bishop's chair comes back to St. Mary's. Sold in 1967, it has been owned by a lady in Alma, Kansas, from whom it is repurchased. The chair was originally used in Chicago, and later installed in the Immaculata early in this century. *[It stands in Assumption Chapel today and it is pictured on page 85.]*

October 15, Sunday -- The first formal Catechism class is held after Mass. On the following day, news come of the election of the successor to Pope John Paul I, John Paul II.

October 17 -- With the coming of winter, it is very cold in the buildings -- 50 degrees in the Immaculata. At this time, some of the campus workers go weekly to the St. Mary's Manor to say the Rosary with the residents.

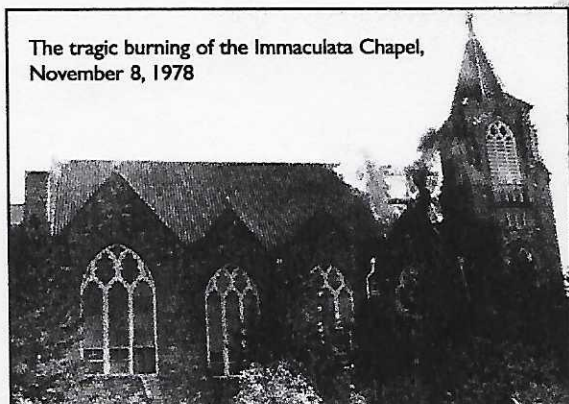
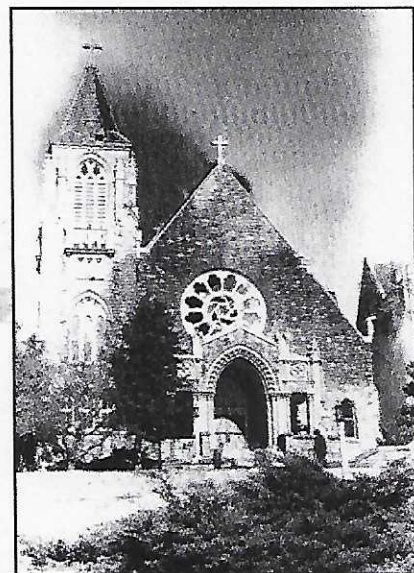
October 22 -- Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament for the first time following Sunday Mass; as we still lack a monstrance, a ciborium is used. Formal catechism begins in earnest in the Library Building.

October 25 -- Members of KATO Corporation present a bronze plaque commemorating the donation of their interest in the College property to the SSPX. *[It can be seen today on the front of the College Building.]*

October 26 -- The bell is hoisted to the roof of Coppens, to be hung three days later in the little tower. Another large bell (destined for the Immaculata tower) arrives. *[This is probably the bell that was for some time on the lawn of Loyola, used to summon the faithful during the first Pilgrimage, and probably later put in the Loyola tower, until its removal in 1994 when the roof was changed.]*

Week of October 29 -- A discussion group begins holding sessions after Sunday Mass.

November 8, Wednesday -- **FIRE!** -- destroys the almost restored Immaculata Chapel. A spark from an electrical short causes fire to smoulder in a wall of the choir loft, and the Immaculata's agony begins. Discovered at 12:53 p.m., the fire is fought all afternoon by several area fire departments, and is one of the most hard-fought fires area residents can remember. It is at last brought under control between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. The roof is gone, collapsed into the floor of the chapel, the interior completely gutted, some of the priceless stained-glass windows broken. The rose window in the facade has burst from the heat and pressure. The walls and porch remain intact, and from her altar, Our Lady surveys the smoking ruins.



The tragic burning of the Immaculata Chapel,
November 8, 1978

November 9 -- At 9:15 a.m., Holy Mass is offered on the porch of the still-smoldering Immaculata. Many in the congregation of 50 are in tears; Fr. Bolduc announces, "Of course we're going to rebuild the church!" SSPX Superior General, Fr. Franz Schmidberger, said at the time, "The physical rebuilding of the Immaculata will be the outward sign of the spiritual rebuilding in our own hearts."

November -- Salvage operations around the Immaculata continue for weeks; one weekend 30 volunteers come from Kansas City to assist. Stained-glass pieces are picked up and sorted; the remaining windows are removed from their frames. Meetings take place regarding rebuilding.

Winter '78-'79 -- Like the founding group of St. Mary's Mission in 1848, the group of modern pioneers makes arrangements for the oncoming winter. Due to cold and rain, most outdoor work ceases; cleaning, painting, wiring and plumbing work continues inside. Broken windows in Bellarmine are being replaced before the snow season. Some workers leave, to return the next summer. Others move into heated areas, or stay with families in town. In late November, only a makeshift furnace in the Infirmary Building is operating; elsewhere, electric heaters help a little when outside temperatures drop to the 20's. Pending finding houses in town, newly-arrived families are also staying on campus. Workers "resurrect" the ancient 1933 Chevy truck -- "Old Faithful" -- from its resting place behind the Powerhouse, and use it as a snowplow during several deep snows of this unusually snowy and cold winter (-23 degrees on February 1).

December 22 -- Heat for Christmas! The new boilers are fired up for the first time!

Christmas -- A mild and sunny day. The pioneer choir sings for the first time at the first High Mass since the acquisition of the property. A week later, the New Year is welcomed with a midnight Holy Hour.

1979

January -- At an auction at Fort Riley, 231 mattresses and 71 box springs are acquired, plus much other equipment. From this and other sales will be acquired early furnishings, as well as office and kitchen equipment. In the Spring, kitchen equipment will be acquired from former St. Joseph's Hospital in Kansas City. For the temporary chapel, Verschelden Funeral home donates pews purchased from old SMC. Donations of furniture and other items come in constantly from visitors and friends.

January 28 -- With the arrival of some seminarians, Compline and Prime begin to be sung on campus. St. Mary's may end up as a preparatory seminary for young men going to Ecône. On the third floor of the Library Building a classroom is set up; Brother Fox teaches Latin and there is a French class.

Spring -- Fr. Bolduc inaugurates the League of the Sacred Heart, an association of parish ladies who will assist the campus in various charitable and fund-raising works, along with promoting the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes of parishioners.

April -- Negotiations are in progress with KATO for acquiring ownership of the 400 additional acres of the old Jesuit farm, adjoining the campus to the north.

Having been named the Superior of the new SSPX U.S. Southwest District, Fr. Bolduc will move his headquarters from Dickinson, Texas, to St. Mary's. From this point on, daily Mass is celebrated on campus.

Archbishop Lefebvre indicates that St. Mary's will be a school, but not a seminary.

April 12-15 -- All the traditional services of the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week are held at St. Mary's College. The first parish potluck brunch is held on Easter Sunday, with an outdoor egg hunt and a baseball game in the Quadrangle. There are now three catechism classes each Sunday, being held in various rooms.

April-May -- Roses are planted in star-shaped beds in Our Lady's circle; beehives are set up; the first stock (6 piglets, with 200 chickens soon to arrive) is acquired for the "farm" far behind the gyms; vegetable gardens are started at several locations and blessed on Rogation Days. One garden was east of the old swimming pool area.

Spring-Summer -- The gigantic task of readying two floors of Loyola Hall for the July retreats begins with paint scraping, plastering, and work on broken windows. Walls peeling their dark ugly colors must be replastered and repainted. Newly-acquired used school desks must be moved in and classrooms prepared.

Another huge job is to prepare Bellarmine for the opening of the Academy in the fall. Eventually the ladies are also helping to scrape and paint. In the basement, the old knotty-pine paneled Jesuit rec room has to be turned into a cafeteria, and a working kitchen entirely set up in time for retreats. The water-damaged floor must have new tile. In some buildings, hot water heaters must also be installed.

The second and third floors of Canisius will be used by boys arriving for the volunteer summer work program. In Suarez, the men are working on the plumbing. Rooms in these buildings will be used by visitors willing to "rough it" during the first Pilgrimage. The Thrift Shop is moved from the west room to the east room, first floor, of Coppens. Work is done to repair roofs of Bellarmine and Loyola.

May 13 -- The first May Crowning takes place in the chapel before Sunday Mass.

June 13 -- First official meeting of the newly-formed Ladies Altar Society.

July 4 -- Everyone takes a break with a picnic and baseball game in the Quadrangle.

July 15, Sunday -- Mr. Herman Belderok shows some motion pictures in McCabe Theater; popcorn is provided -- the first parish movies!

July 16, Monday -- The Infirmary hallway ceases to be a dining room; the tables and chairs are moved to the new cafeteria in Bellarmine, just in time for the retreats. The "pioneers" will move out of the Infirmary and it will be prepared as a future Convent.

July 16-23 -- The first Men's Retreat at St. Mary's since its reopening is preached by Fr. Richard Williamson for 29 men from all over the country. It is exactly 70 years since the first laymen's retreat at old SMC. From July 23-29 the first Women's Retreat (ever!) is attended by 44 ladies. Some of these first retreatants will eventually move to St. Mary's. Summer retreats will continue for several years, until the SSPX opens other retreat houses around the U.S.

Mid-July -- The first enrollment packets are sent out to prospective students; brochures are mailed to Society chapels; the Academy curriculum is being planned.

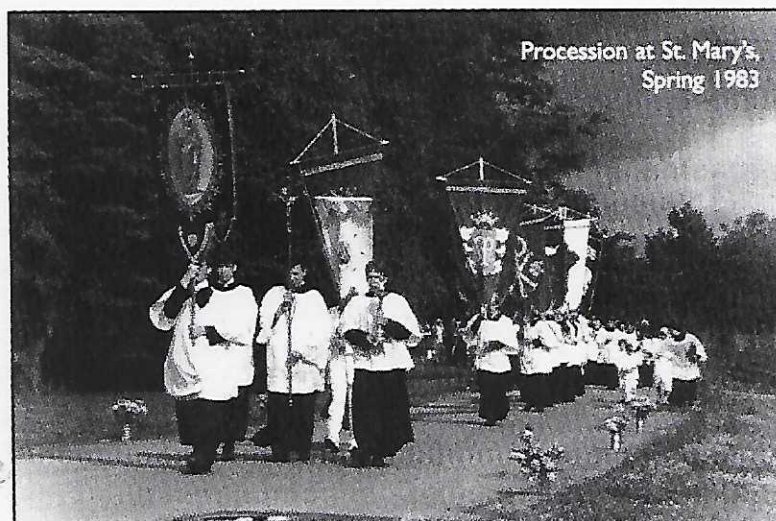
Mid-July to August -- The old refectory in Canisius must be readied to be the Chapel for the Pilgrimage in honor of the Assumption (hence the Chapel's name). Stored kitchen equipment, organ pipes, etc., must be moved out, the old dropped ceiling torn out, an altar and platform assembled, plastering and painting done, etc., etc.

Washers and dryers are being installed in Suarez' basement. The removal of ivy from the walls of the gyms is an on-going project. The gymnasium is cleaned in preparation for the Pilgrimage. Wardrobes are being moved into the rooms of Loyola.

July 28, 3:00 p.m. -- The 2.5 ton statue of the Sacred Heart is hoisted to its new pedestal beside the altar that marks the location of the sanctuary of the old log cathedral ("F" on map).

July 31, Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola -- The new cornerstone for the Immaculata is delivered by Bayer Stone.

August 12-16 -- Fulfilling Archbishop Lefebvre's hope of St. Mary's becoming a place of pilgrimage, the first St. Mary's Pilgrimage takes place.



Procession at St. Mary's
Spring 1983



Passion Play
Lent 1992

THE PASSION PLAY AT ST. MARY'S

The outdoor Passion Play originated in 1980 as an Academy project, and consisted of the Way of the Cross only, performed on Good Friday on the lawn of Bellarmine. In 1981, it was expanded to begin in the gymnasium with the High Council condemning Our Lord and ending with His burial. Still more indoor scenes were added in '82, so that the play began with the Last Supper. After skipping a year, the play was resumed on Good Friday of '84, reverting to the length it had been in 1981.

In 1986, the play became a feature of the August Pilgrimage and a parish project. The scenes opened in McCabe theater, with actors and audience processing outdoors for the Way of the Cross, in which the spectators became a part of the crowd following the Christ on the road to "Calvary" on a knoll behind Loyola Hall. At the 1987 Pilgrimage, two performances were given, with visiting seminarians playing several of the roles.

At the tenth annual Pilgrimage in 1988, the Passion Play moved to the big stage in the public high school for the indoor scenes; then everyone returned to campus for the outdoor Way of the Cross.

At the Pilgrimage of '90, the Passion Play was again performed. During this time, the play began in McCabe, then the scenes before Pilate and Herod took place on the College porches, and the Way of the Cross proceeded through campus. In the later years, the "Hill of Calvary" was moved to the west lawn of the Immaculata.

In 1991, the Passion Play reverted to being staged in Lent and was performed by St. Mary's parishioners on Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday in the years '91 through '93.

About 2,000 people visit the campus. Archbishop Lefebvre celebrates the Mass for the Feastday and lays the cornerstone for the proposed rebuilding of the Immaculata. About 1,000 people are served at the catered banquet in the large gym. The small gym is used for a "convention center" where book sellers (including the Angelus Press and TAN) have traditional Catholic book displays. Archbishop Lefebvre and guest-speaker Michael Davies autograph copies of Davies' *Apologia Pro Marcel Lefebvre, Vol. One*, just printed by the Angelus Press. Assumption Chapel is put into use for the first time on Sunday, August 12, and it continues to be the parish church.

September 8 -- St. Mary's Academy officially opens, offering grades K-10. Grades 11 and 12 will be added over the next two years. There are about 88 students this first year; Mr. Herman Belderok is Headmaster. Bellarmine Hall is the home of the Academy which at this time is coed. Boarding students are accepted from grades 7 through 12. Girls' dorms are in Loyola and boys' in Canisius and Suarez.

Autumn -- Following the Pilgrimage, the first "Bookstore" is set up on a table in the Hospitality Room by Mrs. Werick and Mrs. Schuster with help from TAN Books. On January 18, 1980, the store opens in its first "permanent" location in Coppens' southwest corner room, first floor; boarding boys are the best customers -- they love it! The store will remain in this location at least until 1982, and then move to the southeast corner room with a separate outside entrance.

1980

Good Friday -- Academy students put on the first outdoor St. Mary's Passion Play, comprised of the Way of the Cross performed on the lawn of Bellarmine. It will eventually grow into a full-length play. [See sidebar on opposite page.]

April -- The St. Mary's College Phone Directory comprises one sheet and lists 37 households of parishioners.

May 6 -- The Tuesday Perpetual Help Novena is said for the first time.

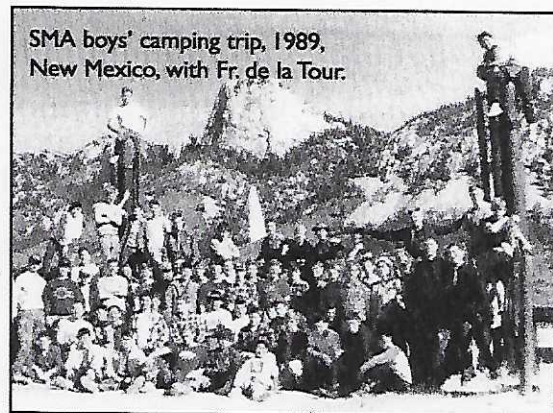
May 22-23, Thursday, Friday -- Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre visits St. Mary's during a U.S. tour to confer the sacraments of Confirmation and Ordination, and to bless newly-acquired properties.

May 31, Saturday, Feast of the Queenship of Mary --

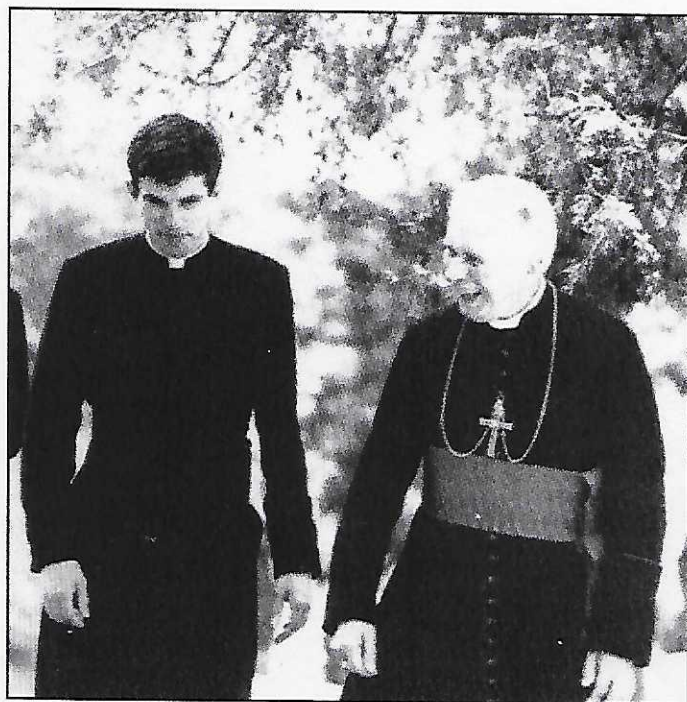
During a severe storm with high winds and torrential rain, the fire-eaten walls of the Immaculata collapse with a roar, crushing the ornate porch. Later, in another windstorm, the back wall will fall outward leaving the high altar untouched, but in these catastrophes the side altars will be crushed. These difficulties contribute to delays in plans to rebuild the chapel.

August -- Pilgrimage visitors find that Assumption Chapel now has pews, and a beautiful side altar of Our Lady. Many church furnishings had been obtained from a church in Omaha, Nebraska, which was in the path of a new freeway and slated to be demolished. Michael Davies is again a pilgrimage speaker.

Thanksgiving Weekend -- The First Annual Young Adults' Get-Together is hosted at St. Mary's for the purpose of giving young single Catholics, from traditional chapels, a chance to meet with other young adults in a weekend of spiritual and social activities.



SMA boys' camping trip, 1989,
New Mexico, with Fr. de la Tour.



Fr. Hervé de la Tour (SMAC rector 1983-1989) and Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre during His Excellency's visit to St. Mary's in May, 1984.

With the founding of the College in 1981, the YAGT will be hosted annually by the College. In 1985, about 90 locals and 45 visitors will attend. The 8th and last YAGT will be held in 1987; with more boarders we are running out of room for visitors.

1981

May 11, Monday -- On this visit of Archbishop Lefebvre, the liturgical events take place at St. Vincent's in Kansas City; but on a one-day visit to St. Mary's, His Excellency tours the Academy in Bellarmine Hall.

May 29 -- First graduating class of SMA -- nine seniors graduate: seven boys and two girls. These first graduates point out the need for a traditional Catholic college.

July -- The parish phone list now contains 53 households.

Summer -- While Gregorian Chant echoes from a tape player, workers hasten to ready the College Building for the opening of the new SMC. The third (top) floor of the west wing is divided into two classrooms; the second floor "Domestic Chapel" is divided into three classrooms.

Suarez is painted to be the girls' dorm this fall.

August 31 -- St. Mary's College reopens with Fr. Hector Bolduc as President, Mr. Herman Belderok as Vice-President, and Mr. Dale Neeck as Dean. SMC is the second school of higher learning of the SSPX, the first being the Institute of St. Pius X which opened in Paris, in 1980. Eleven young people from various states and countries make up SMC's first student body. In this first year of the College, a retreat is preached for the students. *[In the early years the College retreat was separate from that of the Academy. Later, SMA and SMC boys will make their retreat together; the same will be true of the girls, and all retreats will be in Lent.]*

The boarding boys move to Loyola and the girls to Suarez. Coppens then became the girls' school, and Bellarmine the boys'. The dorms and schools will switch back during the summer of '85.

October 2, Friday, 10:45 p.m. -- Three SSPX sisters arrive at St. Mary's, having left their motherhouse in France very early the same day. It is 133 years since the first Ladies of the Sacred Heart arrived at St. Mary's Mission! The first three Sisters of the new St. Mary's are: Sr. Mary Ste. Anne, an Australian, who will later return there to make a foundation; Sr. Mary Jude, an American who will become Mother General of the Order in 1984; and Sr. Mary Augustine, a native of France who will later be appointed novice-mistress at the American novitiate of the Sisters at Armada and Browerville.

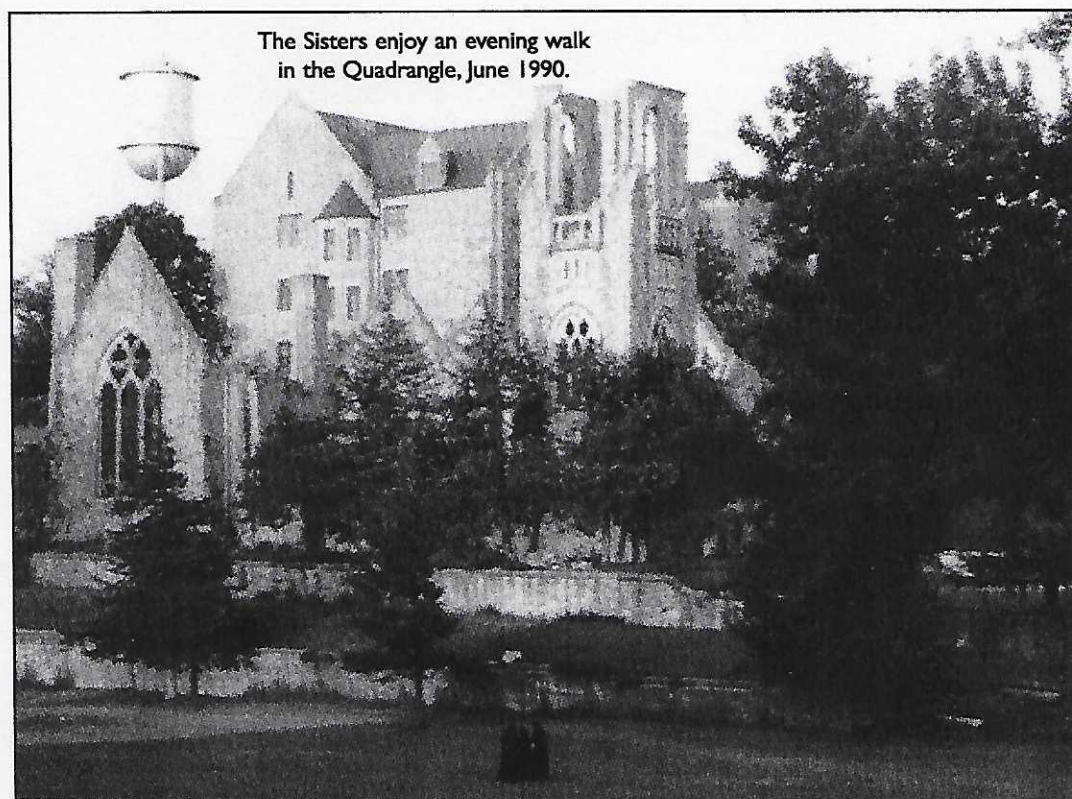
December 8 -- The first St. Mary's postulants for the Third Order of St. Pius X are received.

1982

May 5 -- Archbishop Lefebvre visits St. Mary's for the fifth time, with the usual busy round of activities. Despite rainy and muddy conditions, His Excellency consecrates the acreage set aside on the northwest corner of the College property for Our Lady of Peace Cemetery.

June -- Due to a severe storm, the power on campus is out for a week (in town it was out for three days). Most of the Blue Spruces and many other trees on campus were destroyed.

July -- The parish phone list contains 60 families.



Fall -- The school year begins with the upper boys' and girls' schools separated for the first time. The upper boys' school is in Bellarmine, dorm in Loyola. The upper girls' school is in Coppens Hall, with girls' dorms in Suarez, Canisius, and the College Building. With Coppens now a school building, the parish Thrift Shop moves over to the unused old locker room on the west end of the Gymnasiums. The coed lower school for the little children (K-4) remains in Bellarmine.

October -- The first Fall Festival is held in the Big Gym, with the Parish Auction held outside the Gym.

November 5 -- The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary are enthroned in the classrooms and offices of the College.

December 16-20 -- Accompanied by Fr. Bernard Fellay, Bursar of the Society, and Fr. Richard Williamson, Rector of St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, Archbishop Lefebvre makes a quiet visit to St. Mary's.

Winter '82-'83 -- In the third-floor dorm of Canisius Hall, all the partitions between the rooms are torn out and replaced to meet fire codes. Due to financial difficulties in keeping the school running, the students enjoyed a three-month Christmas vacation! But although they enjoyed their free time while it lasted, they later completed the semester by going to school on Saturdays!

1983

January -- Fr. Hervé de la Tour, native of France who has been teaching at the Society's American Seminary in Ridgefield, Connecticut, is appointed the second Rector of St. Mary's. Fr. Bolduc moves the Southwest District Headquarters back to Dickinson. Fr. de la Tour begins a monthly "Letter to Friends and Benefactors" which has continued ever since.

Spring -- The first Jog-A-Thon is held -- destined to become one of the main annual fund raisers for the school.

SSPX seminarians visiting from Ridgefield assist to clear the Immaculata porch of stone and rubble from the collapsed walls. The platform is repaired and the porch can now be used as an outdoor altar during processions.

March -- Fr. de la Tour inaugurates a new publication: *CRUSADE*, a monthly newspaper (of about 8 pages) for America's Catholic youth, with occasional photo news insert to promote the schools. In June, 1984, it will develop into a bimonthly magazine.

May -- Fr. Franz Schmidberger, Vicar-General of the SSPX, visits St. Mary's and gives a conference in McCabe Theater. The students give a program in Father's honor.

A "Spring Festival" is held in the Big Gym.

Summer -- St. Mary's organizes the first of several girls' trips to France. Twenty young American ladies visit chapels of the Society, famous cathedrals, and traditional convents.

July -- A boys' camp is held at St. Mary's; priests and seminarians from Ridgefield come to oversee the thirty campers. There will be a camp here in '84 as well.

August -- Newly-ordained Fr. Stephen De Lallo offers a First Solemn Mass and gives First Blessings to parishioners assembled in the Quadrangle. Father will be stationed at SMC to assist in the schools. During this school year we have three resident SSPX priests: Fr. de la Tour, rector, Fr. Christopher Hunter, and Fr. Stephen DeLallo.

1983-84 During this school year, a greater emphasis is placed on the Divine Office. Booklets are prepared for the faithful to use at Vespers & Compline; Kyriale booklets are printed so that the faithful can sing the Ordinary of the Mass as desired by St. Pius X; chant classes are introduced in the high school. Annual Ignatian Retreats are instituted for Juniors and Seniors in the Academy.

September -- A silent retreat of several days is held for the College students.

Autumn -- The second annual Fall Festival is held outdoors with booths in front of the Library Building. The Parish Auction becomes a separate event held later in the Autumn in the Hospitality Room. SMC students put on a hilarious "College Variety Show."