

Record of Mercy Order in Diocese

Mercy

It will be strengthened by years and distance—it will crumble and decay only in the fall of the high and noble standards instilled in us by Mercy—and that shall be—never.

Will you, Mercy High, accept our simply offered, "Thank you?" Will you know we are grateful for all you have given us?

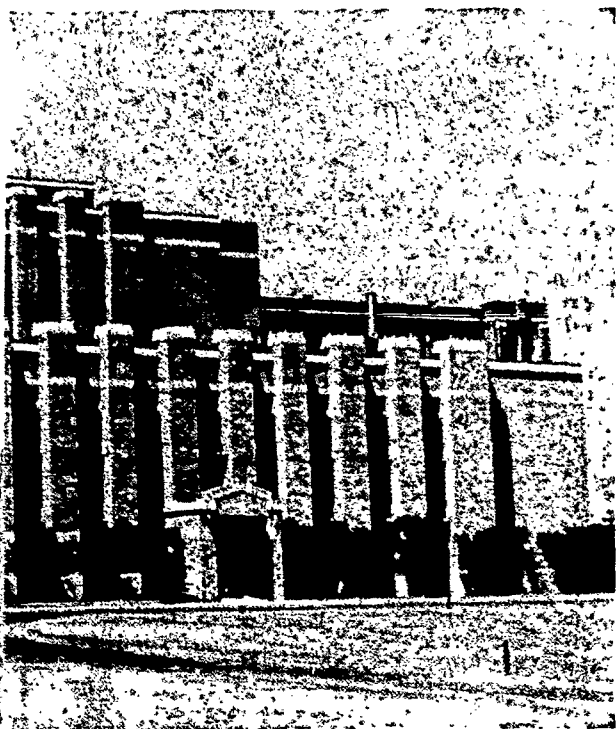
We are Mercy High—and we shall always believe

Mary Mallory, '41



High School And Motherhouse

This is a view of the school before the new wing was added. Shown here in addition to the school is the Motherhouse.



gymnasium at the left; new auditorium at the right.



Mercy
Of
Today

Progress Characterizes History of Mercy High

For the third time since Sept. 1928, the Sisters of Mercy have announced the opening of a new building on their Blossom Road site. During the Superiorship of Mother Irene, ground was broken on Sept. 8, 1927, for a new high school for girls.

This first unit opened doors for operation for first year students only on Sept. 4, 1928, with a registration of 70 girls. The structure occupied a central location at the east section of the 86 acre plot of ground on the corner of Blossom and Clover Roads. The school then occupied fifteen classrooms, library, laboratory and administrative office on the first and second floor with chapel and living quarters for the Sisters on the third floor. The first faculty was composed of 5 Sisters with Sister Mary Francesca, principal.

Sept. 8, 1928

The solemn blessing of the building took place Sept. 8, 1928, with Rt. Rev. Wm. M. Hart officiating. Mercy Day, Sept. 24, marked the formal opening and inspection date for the school.

Two years later, Mother M. Liguori, superior, negotiated for the breaking of grounds for the Motherhouse which was to adjoin the school on the west and was to occupy the central unit of the group of buildings to be erected on the ground. On July 4, 1930, with Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey and Bishop John Francis O'Hern participating, the ceremony of the breaking ground for the new \$200,000 convent took place.

Dedicatory ceremony was held on Sunday, May 17, 1931 following a pontifical field mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop. During the days immediately following the dedication the sisters moved into their new quarters. The old Motherhouse at St. John's Park now being abandoned as inadequate for their needs, the Novitiate was also moved to Blossom Road. The new Motherhouse following the plan of the school was of modern Gothic architecture. The building is connected with the school by passages on each floor.

Building Progress Expansion

Feeling the need for expansion in order to accommodate the increasing registration of the school and likewise to meet the demands of modern education, Rev. Mother M. Liguori

once more undertook a building project. Accordingly ground was broken for the third unit on May 26, 1940, at the annual May Day services of the school. Within a few weeks time the construction was begun and is now nearing completion. The incoming classes will have the opportunity to enjoy all the advantages offered by this unit composed of gymnasium, auditorium, library and added class rooms.

According to Sister M. Francesca, principal, the school as it now stands furnished and supplied with the latest in school equipment "offers opportunity on a par with the most modern public high school to fulfill the demands of the State Department and of modern education, for a vocational as well as classical education tempered by a religious background and spiritual atmosphere."

Alumnae Form Strong Unit

Members of the first graduating class of Mercy High, forty-two in number, beamed with pride to realize that when Mercy's tenth graduating class took the stage this June they were 100 strong. The alumnae now numbers over 600 members.

Affiliated with the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, Mercy's group is remarkable for its spirit of loyalty and activity. Among the annual affairs traditional with the organization are a day of recollection celebrated in the high school chapel, a formal dance, a banquet, a bazaar, card-party, baby-party, and reception of new members. It would be difficult to cite which is the most popular of their various activities, but it would not be amiss to declare the baby party, which is held in the convent park, by far the most charming. A grand-child party is something to which they look in the distant future.

schools taught by the Sisters in the Motherhouse on Blossom Road is located the Novitiate where novices and postulants receive their training in both spiritual and plastic branches, necessary to a religious order. Here, too, is the focal point from which Mother M. Liguori, Mother Superior of the Community, administers to the needs of the Order in the diocese. The older sisters who have seen long years of service in the "Master's Vineyard" and their waning years at the Blossom Road convent. Living here, also, the Sisters who teach daily at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Aquinas Institute, St. Mary's grammar and commercial schools, and a small con-

tingent of the large teaching staff of St. John the Evangelist School.

The "bigger Mercy" now completed with its ultra modern auditorium, its spacious gymnasium, its additional classrooms furnished with the latest equipment stands as a monumental tribute to Reverend Mother M. Liguori, whose business ability and wise forethought has caught the vision of tomorrow's need in the training of Catholic young women in Rochester. The Sisters of Mercy under the guidance of their holy patroness, Our Lady of Mercy, stand ready now, as always, to meet the challenge for a better world, by preparing their youthful charges to meet the problems of everyday life in a truly Christ-like manner.