

Notre Dame Nuns, St. Joseph's Commercial School Set Anniversary Celebrations Oct. 17 to 23



MEMBERS OF FACULTY of St. Joseph's Commercial School, Rochester, marking its 50th Anniversary together with the Centenary of the coming of the School Sisters of Notre Dame to Rochester, Oct. 17 to 23 is shown above. Standing, (from left) Redemptorist Fathers, Very Rev. Gerald J. Whelan, C.S.S.R., and Rev. John J. Crowell, C.S.S.R.; seated (from left) Sister M. Cyril, S.S.N.D., Sister Herbert Marie, S.S.N.D., Sister Mary Johanna, S.S.N.D., Sister Francis Borgia, S.S.N.D. (Advance Graphic Photo Service).



Two hundred students at St. Joseph's Commercial School, Franklin St., Rochester, will mark the Golden Anniversary of their school at special convocations this coming week. Notre Dame Sisters who conduct the school are also observing at this time the Centennial Jubilee of their coming to Rochester.

Nuns Pioneered in City Schools

Over seventy-five School Sisters of Notre Dame in seven Rochester area parishes will mark their community's centennial of service in the diocese Oct. 23, 1854.

When Rochester was still an infant city, the School Sisters of Notre Dame came here to begin their devoted and outstanding work of teaching the children in the first parochial schools of this area. In October of 1854, the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Joseph's Church invited these nuns to assist them in the spiritual development of their parish. Reverend Mother Caroline, foundress of the Notre Dame community in America, brought two Sisters to Rochester and began classes for 18 girls on Oct. 17, 1854.

The Rochester area was still at that time under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Buffalo and he came on the feast of the Immaculate Conception to dedicate the Sisters' Convent Chapel and encourage them in their pioneering apostolate.

Succeeding years noted a steadily increasing enrollment. By 1861, 762 children attended the school. In addition to the school at St. Joseph's, the Notre Dame Sisters were also teaching

in other parishes of the city, such as Holy Family, Holy Redeemer, and St. Peter and Paul's. Highest registration at St. Joseph's came in 1867 when the total reached 1,058. Hudson Ave. and Elmwood Ave. were at that time country roads but the city was rapidly expanding into these areas. New parishes relieved the busy downtown parish, and school enrollments declined gradually.

From 1861 until 1900, the Brothers of Mary from Dayton, Ohio, conducted the boys' classes at the school, while the nuns instructed the girls.

In 1861, work was begun to build an orphanage on Andrews St. and was twice enlarged and each time soon filled to capacity. This orphanage continued to care for neglected and needy children until 1938, when the group of 18 children was transferred to the St. Joseph's Villa on Dewey Ave.

OUTSTANDING NUNS who are remembered for their educational and civic leadership are Sister M. Petra who came to St. Joseph's in 1853 and Sister M. Ludolph in 1859.

At the turn of the century, the

Notre Dame Sisters noted the need for specialized training for girls who would seek jobs in industry. This Sisters organized a Commercial Department as a "ninth grade" to train boys and girls in basic business methods and techniques. This course, begun in 1904, grew into the present day St. Joseph's Commercial School, one of the first such schools in the country.

PARISH SCHOOLS conducted by the School Sisters of Notre Dame are the following: Holy Redeemer, Holy Family, St. Michael, St. Joseph St. Peter and Paul, St. Boniface, in Rochester; and Holy Ghost school at Coldwater.

The Sisters whose title Notre Dame dedicates them in a special way to our Lady are grateful for the coincidence that their Jubilee occurs in Mary's Year. They have served Jesus and Mary for ten decades of years in joys and sorrows. The glory of a great reward for faithful work has already been won by many nuns who have returned to their Redeemer and Judge. From the century that is past, the decades that lie ahead are destined to be fruitful for still more souls and the glory of God.

Business School Started To Aid Working Teenagers

St. Joseph's Commercial School, Rochester, this Sunday observes its fiftieth year of providing a business education permeated with Christian principles. Organized at the turn of the century, when many elementary school graduates could afford neither the time nor money for a four-year high school course, St. Joseph's offered a brief introductory course in basic commercial subjects. It was at first established simply as a Commercial Department of St. Joseph's parish school, under the direction of Sister M. Perfeida. Until about ten years ago, boys as well as girls attended it but increased enrollments and limited facilities necessitated making it an all-girl school.

Eighteen students enrolled in the first class in 1904, and now nearly a hundred are graduated each year.

St. Joseph's Commercial School in Rochester was one of the first attempts at a business education in this area. In 1904, most grade school graduates immediately began the task of trying to make a living in the highly competitive business world. Those who had some training were obviously more likely to succeed, but there were few schools with any courses adapted to such a

need. Courses in shorthand, book-keeping, typing, commercial law, business English, etc., were offered at St. Joseph's for one year.

As State and Federal Laws restricted employment of minors, and required longer schooling, St. Joseph's extended its courses to include two years.

Succeeding Sister Perfeida was Sister Mary Jude who continued to teach business subjects at Malden, Mass.

IN 1910, Sister Ludolph was appointed to St. Joseph's and she is well remembered by many business men and office workers of the city to this day. In addition to the regular class subjects, she also directed dramatic performances, oratorical contests, and deepened the spiritual program at the school. She also developed a keener business acumen in the students and continued as a teacher until 1951, despite the inevitable weakness that comes with age.

Sister Francis Borgia came to the faculty in 1951 and Sister Mary Edward in 1946. Another teacher, Sister Edward also came in 1946 to assist in the ever increasing enrollment.

At this time, the school was refurnished, new lights installed, and the latest automatic office equipment purchased.

A distinctive uniform was decided upon and the Commercial School took its place in the various activities of civic and religious affairs.

More recently, the New York State Employment Bureau has regularly sent its representatives to administer tests to the students to help them determine a position suited to their various talents.

SISTER MARY BONAVITA, principal at this time, is faced with applications beyond the school's capacity to accept. Plans are being considered to extend the facilities in every way possible in order to provide Catholic girls of this area with a specialized business education.

Guiding and assisting the nuns in their Commercial School work have been the Redemptorist Fathers of St. Joseph's Church. The Rectors have either served themselves as Spiritual Directors or have appointed other Redemptorist priests to serve in this capacity.

Looking back over the record of a half-century, the Director and Faculty of the Commercial School have every confidence that the traditions already established will be perpetuated in the years ahead. St. Joseph's Commercial will continue its unique apostolate of educating girls in a special way to take their places in the business world, and bring Christ to their fellow workers by the compelling example of their daily Christian lives.

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St. Mary Guild, Fairport, To Mark 10th Anniversary

His Excellency Bishop Kearney will be guest of honor and principal speaker at the 10th anniversary banquet of St. Mary Guild, Church of the Assumption, Fairport, Oct. 20. The affair will be held at 7 p.m. at Hotel Rochester.

Joining Bishop Kearney and guild members that evening will be the Rev. James T. Wood, pastor-generatus, who was pastor of the church when the Guild was organized; the Rev. Leonard A. Kelly, pastor; and the Rev. Vincent P. Collins, assistant pastor.

THE GUILD also will honor the five priests, who have served as advisors in its church work projects. They include: The Rev. Edward P. Dempsey, first spiritual advisor; the Rev. John J. Neich, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Auburn; 1st Lt. Joseph Natale, chaplain of the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N. C.; the Rev. Nicholas Alletto, assistant pastor of St. Anthony Church, Elmira; and the Rev. Ignatius St. George, assistant pastor of Holy Apostles Church, Rochester.

Founded by Miss Anne Glendon to promote the welfare of the parish and assist in church activities, the Guild has increased its membership rolls in the past 10 years from 50 to 228. Present officers include: president, Mrs. Mrs. Ada Smith as cochairmen.

Walter Phillips; vicepresidents, Mrs. John Delaney and Mrs. Frank Pittman; secretary, Mrs. Earl Graham; and treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Dalley.

Mrs. Arthur Keefe has been named banquet chairman. Her aides are: program, Mrs. Edward Cary; tickets, Mrs. Charles Kenney and Mrs. Colin Murray; and transportation, Mrs. John Kenney and Mrs. Donald Walzer.

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