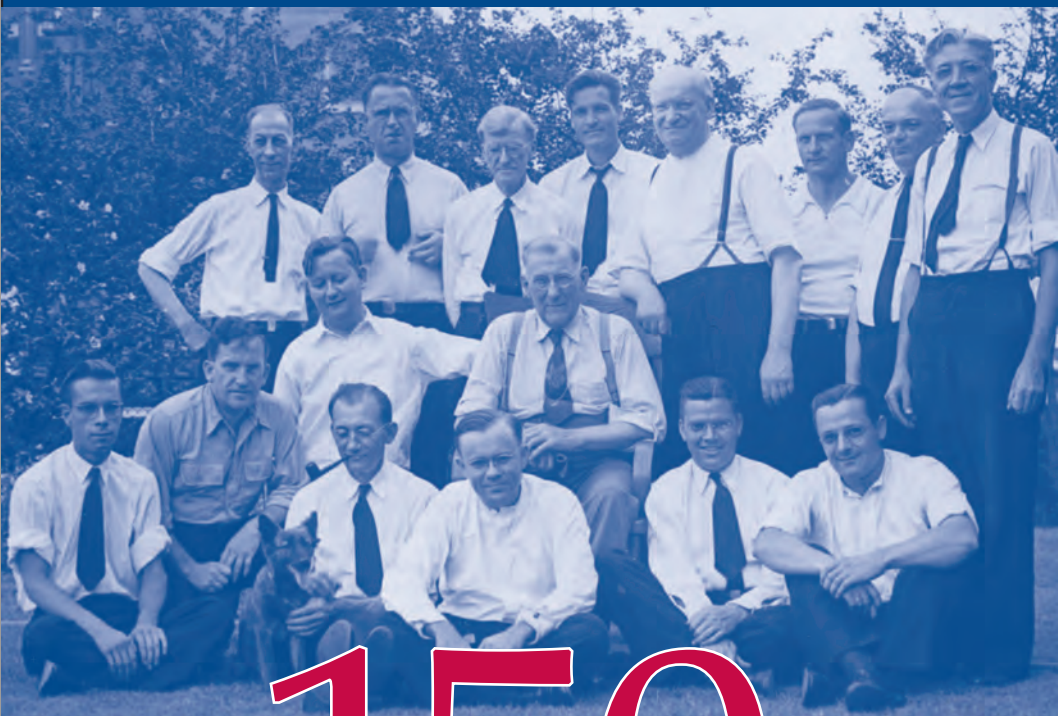


M A R I A N I S T S E S Q U I C E N T E N N I A L

1 8 5 6 - 2 0 0 6



The Story of

150
years

of Marianist
Education
in the Diocese
of Cleveland



School's over at St. Joseph High School, 1952

Cover photo: Brothers in the backyard of the Cathedral Latin Marianist community, 1943, front row, seated, Richard Schwagerl, George Kohles, Walter Hausfeld, Vincent Plassenthal, Francis Nurthen and Carl Wilhelm; middle row, Emeric Bratt and Mr. Hausfeld (father of Bro. Walter Hausfeld); back row, standing, Charles Kolf, Herman Thaner, Louis Brendel, Charles Ebel, Joseph Wiesmann, Paul Wagner, Frank Kreipl and Adolph Kalt

Marianist Sesquicentennial

The Story of
150 Years of Marianist Education
in the Diocese of Cleveland

1856 – 2006

INTRODUCTION

“They that instruct others unto justice shall shine as stars for all eternity.”

From “History of St. Patrick’s Parish” (1903),
commending the work of the Brothers of Mary

For the past 150 years, members of the Society of Mary (Marianists) have served the Diocese of Cleveland in Catholic education, beginning with a personal invitation extended by Cleveland’s first bishop, Amadeus Rappe. The Marianists were the first male religious order invited into the newly established Diocese of Cleveland. Pioneer Marianists from Alsace, France, started the implantation in this diocese. It continues to the present day under the tutelage of Bishop Anthony Pilla, who is grateful for his own experience of Marianist education at Cathedral Latin School.

Jan. 22 is the feast of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, the founder of the Marianists, who died in Bordeaux, France, in 1850. Father Chaminade founded the Marianists in 1817. Marianists first came to the United States in 1849. By 1850, they established the central house of the Society of Mary in Dayton, Ohio, on land which has blossomed into the University of Dayton. Blessed William Joseph Chaminade was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Rome in 2000.

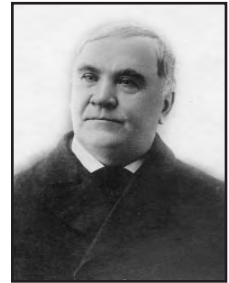
Today, Cleveland Marianists work in pastoral ministry, aspirancy formation, social service, faith sharing, feeding the hungry, hospice counseling, and elementary and secondary education. The Marianists live in two Cleveland communities: (1) St. Aloysius-St. Agatha Parish

rectory and home for Marianist aspirants, 10932 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, 44108. Members are Brother Robert Dzubinski, (director), Father William Behringer, Brother Paul Hoffman, and Father Michael Lisbeth; (2) Marcella Road Marianist Community, 18340 Marcella Road, Cleveland, 44119. Members are Brother John Dempsey, (director), Father George Abmayr, Brother David Conrad, Brother William Halloway, Brother David Murphy, Brother Richard Roesch and Brother Joseph Scheible.

It is hoped that in reading this history, which the Cleveland Marianists found interesting to explore, the reader will share in appreciation for our continued work in the future to “instruct others unto justice” and to remain faithful to our calling from God as Marianists, “to follow in a special way Jesus Christ, Son of God, become Son of Mary for the salvation of all” (*Rule of Life of the Society of Mary – 1983*).



The Marianist brothers in Cleveland (2005), seated, Brother Paul Hoffman, Brother Joe Scheible, Brother Will Halloway, Father Bill Behringer and Brother Dave Murphy; standing, Aspirant Luis Gamboa, Brother Bob Dzubinski, Father George Abmayr, Brother Jack Dempsey, Brother Richard Roesch, Brother Dave Conrad, Father Mike Lisbeth and Aspirant Tom Farnsworth.



ABOVE: Brother John Baptist Stintzi

LEFT: St. Patrick's brothers' residence, 1893

ST. PATRICK'S GRADE SCHOOL

1856-1912

St. Patrick's School was the first English speaking school accepted by the Marianists in 1856. It was directed by Brother John Baptist Stintzi, a native of St. Croix, Alsace, France. Brother Stintzi was one of the original four Marianists sent to America from Europe. Bishop Rappe, a native of France, personally invited Brother Stintzi and Brother Anthony Heitz to staff the boys' department of St. Patrick's.

It is with St. Patrick's that the name as well as the reputation of Brother Stintzi is best connected. He achieved a reputation for St. Patrick's as the "best and most practical" school in Cleveland. Even the superintendent of the public schools came to Brother Stintzi to see how certain educational questions could be solved. He recommended his teachers "visit St. Patrick's on the West Side if they wanted to learn how to conduct an efficient class."

By 1869 Brother Stintzi became the first Marianist "Inspector" (Director of Education) for the American Province. In 1891 the "Stintzi Alumni was formed and honored Brother Stintzi in the new St. Patrick's Hall." He was now 70 years old and principal of a school in Rochester, N.Y. He was presented with a "handsome gold-headed cane, suitably inscribed" as a souvenir of the occasion. The knob of the cane is on display in the collection of the Marianist Archives of the Province of the United States housed at the University of Dayton.

Brother John Waldron, a graduate of St. Patrick's, joined the Marianists and became director/principal of St. Patrick's. The parish golden jubilee history written in 1903 stated that Brother John Waldron "deserves the very highest testimonial to his worth and ability. It is rarely that a principal is so well equipped for his work and performs it so faithfully and cheerfully." Brother Waldron later became the first inspector of the newly formed St. Louis Province in 1908. Brother Waldron's educational activities included holding executive positions in the Catholic Education Association and publishing articles for the "Catholic School Journal." Today, in St. Louis, the Marianist community at Chaminade College Preparatory School is referred to as the Waldron community.

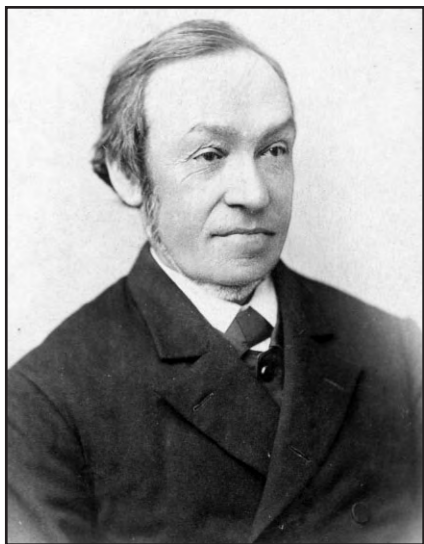
Among the other popular teachers was Brother Bertram Bellinghausen who taught with Brother Stintzi. In 1883 Brother Bertram was sent to Honolulu to administer St. Louis College, where he was "eminently successful."

In 1902 Walter Tredtin taught as a young brother at St. Patrick's with Brother Waldron. By 1938 Father Tredtin was appointed provincial of the Cincinnati Province and later the first provincial of the newly formed Pacific Province in 1948.

Bishop Amadeus Rappe had already invited French Ursuline Sisters to Cleveland in 1850. In the year of the establishment of St. Patrick's Parish, 1853, the sisters "traveled from their convent by closed carriage to St. Patrick School to find 150 girls waiting for their instruction." This was the first school ever taught by these sisters outside their convent walls.

In 1968 the school combined with St. Malachi School to become the Urban Community School, an ecumenical school in the Catholic tradition. The school is flourishing today with a diversified student body and moved to a new site at W. 48th St. and Lorain with capacity for 600 students. It is still assisted by Ursuline sisters.

The Marianists withdrew from St. Patrick school in June 1912.



Brother Damian Litz

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL GRADE SCHOOL

1857-1916

Another Marianist pioneer, Brother Damian Litz, who came from the Marianist Alsatian Province at Ebersmunster, took over the boys' department of St. John's Cathedral School in August 1857. He aimed to make St. John's "a worthy rival of St. Patrick's school." By 1877 the cathedral enrollment had reached 1,000 students.

Brother Damian Litz was noted for his versatility, enterprise, energy and his remarkable power of adaptation which made him especially useful in the founding of new houses. He was transferred from one end of the country to the other in his work of establishing schools. He was of a jovial disposition and extremely sociable. While in Cleveland, Brother Litz helped candidates in their training for religious life. In later years Brother Litz began another work of zeal and instruction in the apostolate of the press. His writing for the German Catholic "Volkszeitung" (newspaper) of Baltimore made his name familiar in many German households as he became a champion of Catholic faith where the German language was spoken in the United States.

Brother Litz started a long line of Marianist teachers who became very friendly with the bishops of the diocese because of their close vicinity to the cathedral. Bishop Charles LeBlond, bishop of St. Joseph, Mo., a graduate of St. John's, thought so highly of his elementary school teachers that he invited three Brothers of Mary to his consecration in 1933.

The Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland taught in the girls' department of St. John's school. At the turn of the 20th century, a cathedral pastor remarked that "ten efficient teachers are employed—five Brothers of Mary and five Ursuline Sisters."

When Cathedral Latin School was opened in 1916, the brothers withdrew from St. John's parish school.



Brother Joseph Fox (far left) with his sixth grade class, 1922

ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL

1858-1922

St. Mary's of the Assumption was the third parish staffed by the Marianists in Cleveland. In 1858 Brother Louis Strobel took over the boys' department. The Ursulines taught the girls.

The German speaking people were originally given St. Mary's on the Flats, the first church in Cleveland. The new parish called St. Mary of the Assumption was established in 1854 in Ohio City. The parish was administered by diocesan priests until 1880 when the parish passed into the hands of the Jesuits.

Brothers Joseph Morel and Charles Rollinet are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. There are many St. Mary's parish members who joined the Marianists and are still remembered today: the Baumeister brothers—Brother Joseph, Brother Walter and Father Edmund; Brother John Gardner, uncle of Marianist Father Norbert Burns; the Gerber brothers—Father Francis, Brother Herman and their uncle Brother George Satink.

In June 1922 the Marianists withdrew from St. Mary's to help staff Cathedral Latin School.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

1858-1859

In September 1858 two Marianists conducted St. John's College, a post-elementary academy, on Rhodes Avenue (now Fulton Rd.) in Ohio City for one school year. This educational endeavor of Bishop Rappé had no connection with the Sisters College and, later, St. John's College at East Ninth Street and Superior.



St. Peter's servers around 1911. Brother Bernard Weppelman is standing in the top row. The boy holding the cross became Brother Paul Sibbing. Msgr. Pfeil is seated in the front row. The boy to his left became Brother Louis Saletel.

ST. PETER'S GRADE SCHOOL

1863-1922

St. Peter's, the fourth parish school staffed by the Marianists in Cleveland, was established in 1863. At that time St. Patrick's, St. John's Cathedral, St. Mary's and St. Peter's were the four largest parochial schools in Cleveland.

The religious sisters, the Ladies of the Sacred Heart (later known as the Daughters of the Heart of Mary now located in Holyoke, Mass.), taught the girls until 1874 when three Notre Dame sisters from Germany were employed for the first time in the diocese. St. Peter's was called the "Cradle of the Congregation" for these newly arrived sisters.

St. Peter's parish provided spiritual, social and physical development for the young men of the parish through the St. Aloysius Young Men's Society. Two brothers of the Society of Mary interested the boys in dramatics, cards, baseball and organized a bike club which traveled to nearby towns on Sundays after Mass.

School alumni returning to the parish bazaars always "recalled with great love and affection the brothers who had been their teachers." They also recalled with a tinge of good humor the strict separation which existed at that time between the boys' division and the girls' division in the school.

There were many religious vocations to the Marianists that came from St. Peter's parish: Brother Norbert Kleinhenz; Brother Matthias Kraus; Brother Matthias Newel; Brother John Perz; Brother Paul Sibbing; Brother Lambert Weixel; the Saletel brothers—Brother Anthony Saletel and Brother Louis Saletel, uncles of Brother Richard Roesch; and Father Francis Friedel, uncle of Father Leonard Thome, who were both from the parish.

For 59 years the Marianists taught the boys' department of St. Peter's until Bishop Schrembs requested them to devote themselves to the task of "higher education," especially at Cathedral Latin School.



St. Peter's grade school, built in 1873



St. Bridget's Church

ST. BRIDGET'S GRADE SCHOOL

1880-1889

From 1880 to 1889 the Marianists conducted the boys' school at St. Bridget's parish. The parish had been established as a mission from the cathedral in 1857. The parish property was located on Perry Street (East 22nd) between Scoville and Woodland Avenues. By 1961 the property was sold to make room for the inner belt. St. Bridget's was "one of the outstanding parishes of the city, under the Society of Mary and Ursulines."

The Marianists and Ursulines withdrew on July 1, 1889, and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati staffed the school.



St. Columba students, 1882

ST. COLUMBA'S ACADEMY

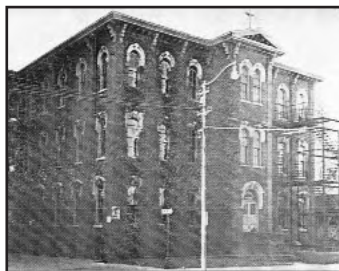
1881-1891

The Village of Newburgh, six miles south of Cleveland, was annexed to the city in 1873. The parish at Miles Park and East 93rd Street was originally called Holy Rosary.

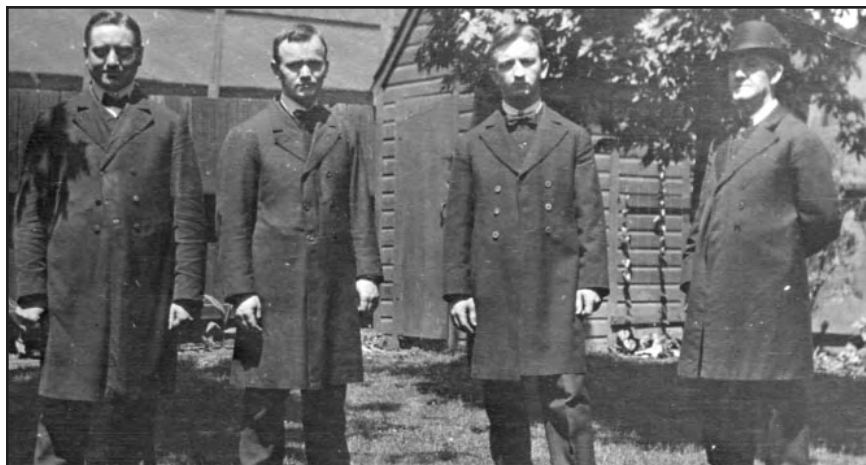
In 1873 the pastor, Father Joseph Gallagher, began the present church and school on Broadway near Harvard Avenue. At that time the school was known as St. Columba's Academy. In 1883 Father Gallagher changed the name of the church to Holy Name after he had begun a Holy Name society.

When he became pastor, Father Gallagher invited the Ladies of the Sacred Heart in 1870 to staff the school.

The Marianists were added to the staff from 1881 to 1891. Although most of the parishioners were of Irish descent, there were also several Slavic families. Brother Thomas Mooney, a native of Ireland, was director for many years at St. John's Cathedral School, St. Bridget's and St. Columba's Academy.



St. Columba Academy, 1873



ABOVE: The community at St. Stephen's 1910-1911, from left, Brothers Aloysius Heuther, Lawrence Plantholt, Michael Grady and John Singer, director

RIGHT: St. Stephen's school in its glory days



ST. STEPHEN'S GRADE SCHOOL

1903-1921

St. Stephen's boys' school was staffed by the Marianists from 1903 to 1921. For six years the pastor, Father Casimir Reichlin, requested the Marianist provincial, Father George Meyer, to send four brothers to teach the higher grades. Father Reichlin even went to Dayton to see Father Meyer to make a personal request. Father Reichlin often stated publicly that "the brothers labored faithfully and successfully."

The good feeling between the brothers, boys, and the pastor is shown by the fact that when the brothers returned from their annual retreat one summer, they were greeted at the railroad station by the assistant pastor and an alumnus who drove them to their home in an automobile.

In 1974 the Notre Dame Sisters began staffing St. Stephen's School. In 1989 St. Stephen's School merged with two other schools to become Metro Catholic Parish School under the direction of the Notre Dame Sisters. Metro Catholic thrives today with 548 students.

In order to staff Cathedral Latin School more adequately, the brothers withdrew from St. Stephen's school in 1921.



Cathedral Latin brothers in a light moment

CATHEDRAL LATIN SCHOOL

1916-1979

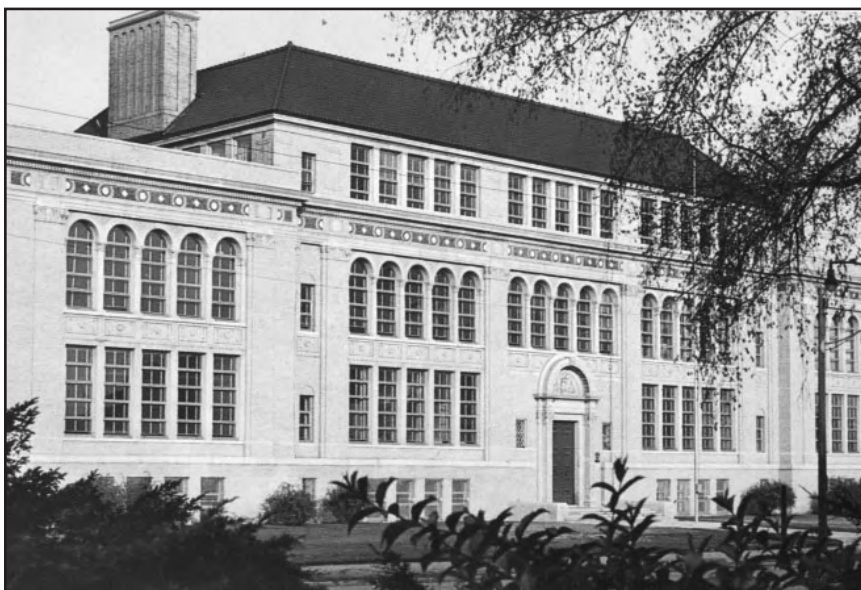
One of the most prestigious Marianist high schools, Cathedral Latin School, opened in 1916. Cleveland's bishop, John Farrelly, wanted a college preparatory school for boys modeled after schools that developed around older cathedrals in Europe. Cathedral Latin opened its temporary quarters in Hitchcock Hall which is now Case Western Reserve University's Thwing Center. At this time there were also plans by the diocese to construct a new cathedral for the Cleveland diocese on the site that now houses Severance Hall. The other part of Cathedral Latin's name was drawn from Boston's Latin School. Cathedral Latin School, its official name, outgrew Hitchcock Hall and in 1917 construction began on a new building at 2056 East 107th Street (now called Stokes Boulevard) across the street from John Hay High School. Latin would remain on E. 107th until its closing in 1979.

Cathedral Latin derived its curriculum from Boston's Latin School which is based on the humanities, classics, sciences and its strong college preparatory focus. Both brothers and diocesan priests served on the faculty. The principal from the beginning held the title "president." Thirteen parish priests taught classics and humanities classes while five

Marianist brothers taught science and mathematics. Father Edward Mooney, later Cardinal-Archbishop of Detroit, was appointed the first president of Cathedral Latin School.

The following Marianists directed the school: Brother Patrick Coyle, Father Joseph Tetzlaff, Father Lawrence Yeske, Father Leo Uht, Father Aloysius Bedel, Father Andrew Seebold, Father Thomas Bodie, Father James McKay, Brother Firmin Widmer, Brother Thomas Caffrey, Brother Paul Boeckerman, Father John Darby, Brother Victor Forlani, Father Richard Knuge and Brother Joseph Kamis, a 1965 graduate. Father Tetzlaff, Father Yeske and Brother Kamis later became provincials of the former Cincinnati Province.

Latin's alumni achievements span all walks of life. Many alumni answered the call to priesthood and religious life. Two deceased alumni became cardinals: John Krol of Philadelphia and John Dearden of Detroit. Other bishop grads headed these dioceses: Bishop Floyd Begin, Oakland; Archbishop Paul Hallinan, Atlanta; Bishop Raymond Gallagher, Lafayette; Bishop Michael Murphy, Erie; Bishop Edward Pevec, Cleveland auxiliary bishop; and Cleveland's Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, who joined the seminary from Cathedral Latin School and attrib-



Cathedral Latin School

uted his vocation to Brother Frank Nurthen, esteemed Latin alumni director; and Bishop Gilbert Sheldon, Steubenville.

According to a diocesan newspaper article written about Latin's Golden Jubilee in 1966, "fifty percent of the priests within the Diocese of Cleveland were Latin grads." Over 100 Marianists came from Cathedral Latin. Many graduates joined religious life and priesthood, but the school was never a high school preparatory seminary as such.

Latin students excelled in the various academic disciplines and received numerous awards and trophies for extracurricular interscholastic competitions in forensics, journalism, science and drama.

The Marianist high school custom of suspending all activities on Mondays to schedule a sodality meeting after school at 2:30 p.m. was consistently followed by the Marianists. These sodality or "faith sharing" groups reflected on the previous day's gospel, discussed Marianist spirituality, and concluded with personal or group resolutions to reach out to others. They were based on the "Catholic Action" movement of the 1940s to "Observe, Judge and Act."

Athletic programs also gave Cathedral Latin a prominent name in Cleveland. The Latin Alumni Association recently published a book documenting Latin's athletic feats in football, track and basketball from its beginnings to its last years when the basketball team won the state title in 1977 and finished as the state runner up in 1979.

The agonizing joint decision of the Marianists and Bishop James Hickey to close Cathedral Latin School at the end of the 1978-1979 school year was based on serious reflection. Many factors influenced the decision, including urban troubles that challenged the east side of Cleveland, the downward enrollment spiral caused by social disturbances, urban flight and decay, and the growing school deficit.

The Cathedral Latin Alumni Association is alive and very instrumental in maintaining its spirit through its annual Communion Breakfast and Sports Hall of Fame ceremonies which honor graduates' achievements. In 1988 this vibrant alumni association worked very effectively with the Notre Dame Sisters in Chardon, Ohio, to turn Notre Dame Academy into a co-ed high school re-named Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School. Today there are 760 students enrolled at Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School.



Marianists at the community chapel at St. Joseph High School, 1986

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

1950-1990

St. Joseph High School started in 1950 and is located on the shores of Lake Erie in the North Collinwood section of Cleveland bordering the city of Euclid. The land on which the high school is located was donated to the diocese by the Beaumont Foundation. The school was named as a memorial to Archbishop Joseph Schrembs by his successor, Archbishop Edward Hoban, bishop of Cleveland.

St. Joseph's had an enrollment of 125 students when the first freshman classes reported in mid-September in 1950. The new school required the busy assistance of 200 building tradesmen who were hard at work in the classrooms. The original faculty conducted classes in the Diocesan Retreat House next door. One class met on the porch of the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark, who handled the domestic management of the retreat house. Warm clothing was needed until five classrooms became available in the new school in November.

In the spring of 1951 the brothers' house was begun east of the former Neuberg mansion which served as a temporary residence for the Marianists. This building was ready for occupancy by Christmas 1952.

A huge auditorium-gymnasium, later referred to as the “Purple Palace” because of its unusual lighting, was completed in 1953.

Archbishop Hoban, noted as a builder of new parishes and schools, chose Memorial Day 1952 for the public dedication of the new St. Joseph High School. He considered this “one of the finest dedications of any church or school we have had.” St. Joseph High School was primarily a college preparatory school offering standard college preparatory courses, classes in German, Russian, Latin, Spanish, French, and Advanced Placement courses in English, science, social studies and calculus. The following September the industrial arts building was ready for occupancy. Eight classrooms with labs were set up for auto mechanics, radio and electricity, woodworking and printing.

Archbishop Hoban selected the Marianists to administer the school. The original six-member faculty included Father Louis Wiesner, principal, Brother Louis Weber, Brother Herman Thaner, Brother Charles Awalt, Brother Richard Dineen and Coach William Gutbrod. Marianists



The first five Marianists to serve St. Joseph's in 1950: Brother Richard Dineen, athletic director (left), Father Louis Wiesner, principal (with Buddy); standing, from left: Brother Charles Awalt, Brother Louis Weber, art teacher, and Brother Herman Thaner, treasurer

served as principals until 1970. The list includes: Father Louis Wiesner, Father Aloysius Bedel, Brother Stanley Mathews and Brother Philip Aaron. In 1970 Joseph Radican was the first layman appointed principal followed by James Simonis, class of 1955, and Richard Bonde, a 1968 graduate.

St. Joseph High School grew rapidly during the 1950s and 1960s in enrollment and peaked to over 500 graduates in the class of 1969. For a few years in the late 1960s and early 1970s, total enrollment swelled to more than 2,000 boys. A commemorative book, "Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence From 1950-1990," commended St. Joseph for having the most finalists of all the Cleveland diocesan high schools in the annual National Merit Scholarship Finalists' competition. This same commemorative lists 60 St. Joseph High School graduates who entered religious life and/or priesthood.

Just as St. Joseph High School was comprehensive in its curriculum, it also was comprehensive in its activities and athletics. Over a span of 40 years, St. Joseph High School students gained constant recognition in these areas: musical stage productions; band performances on television, in New York and Cleveland; athletics, including preparation of eventual collegiate and professional football and basketball stars; other sports in fields such as cross country, golf, wrestling, track, baseball, bowling and Lacrosse.

The Marianists developed sodality programs at St. Joseph High School until the early 1970s. Then St. Joseph High School joined in with the new LIFE (Living in Faith Experience) program which was initiated by the former Province of Cincinnati as a post-Vatican II adaptation to the Sodality. Marianist LIFE members throughout the province gather in Dayton, Ohio, each summer for a week's camp which allows for leadership development, spiritual renewal, and proposes outreach to the students' home schools.

Villa Angela Academy, a neighboring girls' school founded and directed by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, was located on Lake Erie about one mile west of St. Joseph High School. Because both Villa Angela and St. Joseph were experiencing declining enrollments, the diocesan schools office directed that it would be in the best interests of both schools to merge. Effective June 1990, after graduating more than 11,000 students, St. Joseph High School closed its doors to re-open in the fall of 1990 on the same property as a newly combined Marianist and Ursuline Catholic educational institution.

VILLA ANGELA-ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2002

THE SOCIETY OF MARY:

FIFTY+ YEARS OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND MORE



Marianists pictured on the cover of the Summer 2002 VASJ Alumni Magazine, top row, Philip Aaron, John Dahm, Lawrence Schoettelkotte, Carroll Wentker, Richard Dineen, John Flynn and Francis Nurthen; second row, Thomas Wesselkamper, Aloysius Bedel, Paul Bredestege, Joseph Streiff, Michael O'Grady and William Callahan; third row, James Boehnlein, Michael Lux, John Dempsey, Kenneth Templin, George Abmayr and Gilbert Gensler; bottom row, Stanley Mathews, David Murphy, Herman Thaner and Louis Wiesner.

VILLA ANGELA-ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

1990-2006

Villa Angela Academy had a strong college preparatory program and was nationally recognized in 1986 by the U.S. Department of Education Secondary School Recognition Blue Ribbon Awards Program for “Outstanding Progress in Excellence in Education.”

When the Office of Catholic Education merged Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School, an attempt was made to obtain an Ursuline Sister or Marianist religious to administer VASJ. The Marianists did not have anyone available to start this new venture. Ursuline Sister Margaret Lyons, the last principal of Villa Angela Academy, was willing to continue at the new school which would operate at the old St. Joseph High School property. Many meetings were held to promote a smooth transition for students and faculty.

After two years, Sister Maria Berlic, O.S.U., began a six-year term as principal to continue to develop the merged school. Succeeding principals were Margaret Lynch and Janice Roccasalva, the current principal. In 2003 James Sukys, a 1976 graduate of St. Joseph High School, was selected to serve as the first president of VASJ. The “president/principal” model of secondary school administration is a new approach in the Cleveland area.

The Marianist presence averaged 36 religious in the 1960s at St. Joseph High School. In 2005, only five Marianists serve Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School: full time counselors – Brother Jack Dempsey and Brother Dave Murphy; part time chaplain/campus minister – Father Mike Lisbeth; and two volunteer workers – Father George Abmayr and Brother Joe Scheible. The school also benefits from the volunteer services of Marianist aspirants.

Through the Offices of Education and Temporalities of the former Cincinnati Province, and now continuing with the Marianist Province of the United States, VASJ is the second site funded for the Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP). MUSP is a co-operative outreach program which benefits graduates of St. Agatha-St. Aloysius Grade School and St. Joseph in Collinwood Grade School.

Marianist Brother Stanley Zubek facilitated the program until he answered the personal invitation of the Marianist Superior General, Father David Fleming, to return to Africa to start a new mission in Kitale, Kenya. Sister Martha Mooney, OSU, the director of MUSP, has done a superb job continuing and developing MUSP. She is directly

accountable to the Marianist director of education in St. Louis.

The MUSP board, including Sister Martha and the principals of VASJ and both elementary schools, is chaired by VASJ Dean Timothy Robertson. The board helps select students who are offered two-thirds scholarships that are based on need and merit. The board also sets the guidelines for participation and continuance. Six students are accepted each year. In the first three graduating classes starting in 2003, every MUSP student enrolled in four year colleges or universities.

MUSP students and their parents must enter into a contract expressing their willingness to cooperate with Sister Martha according to the guidelines set by the MUSP board. Besides the financial aid offered to MUSP participants, other services include: academic coaching, personal and college counseling in conjunction with VASJ counselors, cultural and recreational community building experiences, and group volunteer service at the St. Aloysius Hunger Center.

The Ursuline Sisters network worldwide with Ursuline schools. VASJ students have gone for summer workshops in New York and St. Louis to meet students from other Ursuline-related schools to form enriching community experiences. Once a month on Mondays, VASJ holds a special meeting for students to attend LIFE meetings or to discuss Ursuline spirituality. On Sept. 2, 2005, the Ursulines and Marianists scheduled a special signing of "sponsorship" documents which officially pledges both religious orders to work with the VASJ family in developing "Ursuline Core Values" and the "Marianist Characteristics of Education." The emphasis is to empower the laity to continue these rich charisms, especially where there are fewer or no vowed religious.

The Marianist director of education of the Province of the United States works with a consortium of Marianist-related schools to continue developing the spirit or charism of the Society of Mary in the teachers and staff at 24 Marianist secondary and middle schools and three Marianist universities. Summer workshops are offered to develop the spiritual and intellectual life of these Marianist educators.



St. Aloysius church

ST. ALOYSIUS-ST. AGATHA PARISH

1980-2006

In 1979 when the Marianists withdrew from Cathedral Latin School, the provincial administration agreed with diocesan officials to offer Marianist presence to St. Aloysius-St. Agatha Church, an inner city parish. One year later, Father Paul Marshall started ministry at St. Aloysius and served as pastor from 1980 to 1997. Father Marshall attended St. Thomas Aquinas School, a neighboring parish school in Glenville, Cathedral Latin School, and taught at Cathedral Latin School before ordination.

Brother Michael O'Grady, director of religious education for the parish, pastoral associate and later pastoral administrator, was another dynamic leader at St. Aloysius. He attended St. Aloysius as a youngster and also attended Cathedral Latin School for one year before joining the Marianist postulate in Beacon, N.Y. Brother Mike's talents were recognized by the Marianist Province of the United States when he left

Cleveland and moved to St. Louis to become a provincial officer in August 2004.

Father William Behringer is currently pastor at St. Aloysius-St. Agatha Church. He taught at Cathedral Latin School before ordination and served as Marianist provincial from 1973 to 1981. Brother Giancarlo Bonutti and Father Mike Nartker were the only other pastoral associates. The late Father Joseph Davis was ordained, assigned to the parish as pastoral associate, and after one year died of cancer. In 1970 Brother Davis was executive director of the National Office of Black Catholics.

From 1970 to 1980 there had been much turnover at St. Aloysius in the administration of the parish. The Marianists have made a significant contribution in 25 years to the inner city parishes of Cleveland. According to Sister Sandra Sabo, SSJ-TOSE, principal for 24 years, "the Marianists brought a sense of stability, community and collaboration to the parish and schools and still do."

Two Ursuline sisters are involved in teaching at St. Aloysius and St. Joseph in Collinwood schools. The Marianists have gone full circle in the diocese of Cleveland concerning elementary education. They have moved from teaching elementary students in the 19th century to contin-



Fr. Eldon Reichert sharing food at St. Aloysius Hunger Center

uing this involvement at St. Aloysius. Brother Bob Dzubinski, director of the Marianist community, has been teaching music to students at both grade schools. Brother George Kemmett taught first grade at St. Joseph in Collinwood. Prior to the commitment of the former Province of Cincinnati to serve the parish, Brother Albert Glanton, an African-American religious from the former St. Louis Province, was hired by the diocese as administrator from 1973 to 1974.

Through the work of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, there is a steady neighborhood outreach program due to the legacy of Father Eldon Reichert, well known teacher and administrator at St. Joseph High School. Every Tuesday, hot meals are served and once a month there is a large food distribution. Father Eldon moved to Dayton to a community nursing home, but the program continues with Brother Will Hallaway.

Father Eldon built up the food program so that it was not just known by the parish. The program reaches to the suburbs as far as St. Mary's parish in Hudson in obtaining volunteers. The Jewish community serves the program regularly along with nearby Catholic parishes. Students from Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, Glenville High School and Beaumont School are just some of the many volunteer at St. Al's.

In recent years the former Cincinnati Province and the new Province of the United States have used St. Aloysius rectory to house aspirants who are considering entrance to the Marianist novitiate. The director of the aspirancy program was Brother O'Grady assisted by Brother Stanley Mathews, former principal of St. Joseph High School. They were replaced by Father Mike Lisbeth, who taught at St. Joseph High School and is now priest chaplain at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. The aspirants have the opportunity to experience inner city ministry through the varied enriching experiences from volunteering at the parish Hunger Center, St. Agatha-St. Aloysius Grade School, St. Joseph in Collinwood and Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

CONCLUSION

May the Lord through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, bless these religious men, women and diocesan priests who have gone before us, and bring new vocations to the Marianists, Ursulines, Notre Dame Sisters, and Cleveland diocesan priesthood in order that other men and women may carry on the torch of forming young people, not only academically, but in the Catholic faith. Is this not what we are all about, to teach as Jesus did?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Marianist sesquicentennial story was written by Clevelander, Bro. John Patrick Dempsey, for distribution at the Jan. 22, 2006, observance held at St. Patrick Church. Special thanks to the archivists from the Marianist Province of the United States, the Diocese of Cleveland and the staff of the Province Office of Communications in St. Louis.

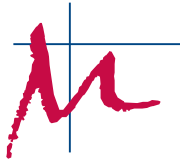
THE SOCIETY OF MARY – MARIANISTS

St. Patrick Parish –
Site of the First Marianist Foundation in Cleveland, 1856

To Jesus Through Mary



January 22, 2006 –
Commemorating the Sesquicentennial Celebration
of Marianist Service in the Diocese of Cleveland.



The Marianists
PROVINCE OF THE UNITED STATES