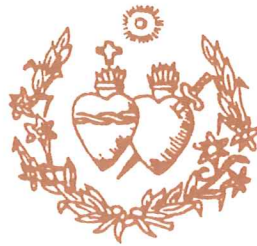


A History



WOODLANDS ACADEMY

OF THE SACRED HEART





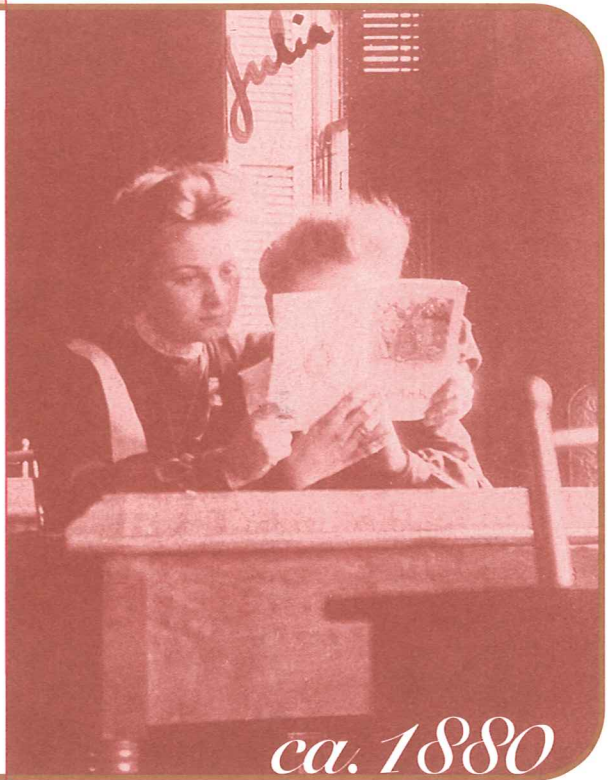
Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

*The closer I come to it,
the more clearly I realize
how difficult our work
is going to be. But God
is in it . . . and I feel my
heart expand with hope.*

SAINT ROSE
PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, 1818

Each day with its allotted tasks, its innocent amusements, its lessons in the beauty of goodness, the holiness of self-sacrifice, left its impress upon our souls, upbuilding character, making for truth and gentle courtesy, for right living and eternal faith, for happiness here and bliss hereafter. Each year with its earnest, helpful work, its portion of pleasure, its guerdon of successful achievement, passed swiftly by until the coming of that resplendent June which marked the dividing line between childhood gone forever – and womanhood attained. With faltering steps and tearful eyes we passed beyond her gates . . .

REUNION TOAST OF MRS. JOHN C. CARROLL
AS REPORTED IN THE NEW WORLD, JANUARY 31, 1903



ca. 1880

CHICAGO WAS A BUSTLING CITY OF OVER 30,000 RESIDENTS ON THE PRAIRIE FRONTIER IN 1858 WHEN REVEREND MOTHER GALLWEY AND SIX SISTERS FROM THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART ARRIVED TO OPEN A SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN. THEY FOUND A YOUNG METROPOLIS THAT WAS ALREADY THE WORLD'S LARGEST RAIL CENTER WITH TEN RAIL LINES AND OVER 3,000 MILES OF TRACK. BULGING GRAIN ELEVATORS AND WAREHOUSES FORETOLD THE TRANSCONTINENTAL TRANSPORT OF RICH CROPS FROM NEARBY GREAT PLAINS' FARMLANDS TO MARKET. LUMBER, IRON, GRAIN, AND WORKERS MOVED IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS THROUGH THE YOUNG CITY'S CROWDED WHARVES. CHICAGO WAS SOON TO BECOME LEGENDARY FOR ITS DRIVE, ENERGY, AND UNPRECEDENTED RATE OF GROWTH, JUST AS THE SCHOOLS ESTABLISHED BY THIS ORDER OF HUMBLE, HARDWORKING NUNS WERE TO BECOME LEGENDARY FOR THEIR ADVANCED APPROACH TO WOMEN'S EDUCATION.

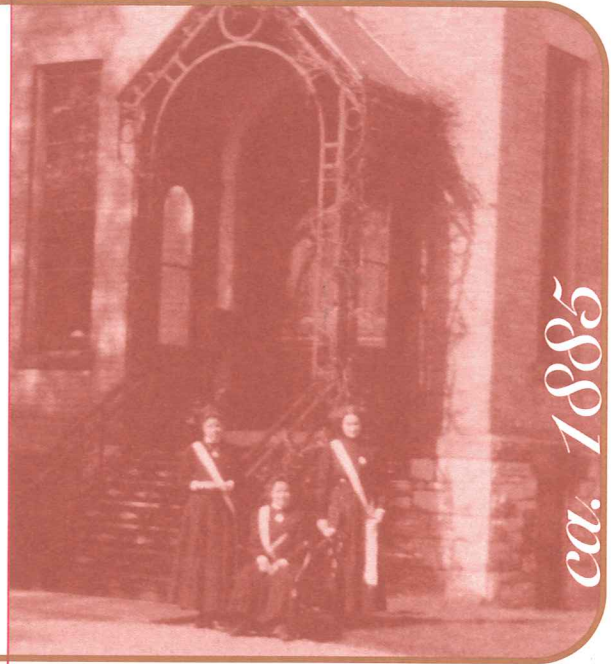
CHICAGO'S PROMISING FUTURE WAS ALREADY APPARENT, AND THE CITY'S BISHOP, ANTHONY O'REGAN, RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR QUALITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO SERVE A GROWING POPULATION. THE REPUTATION OF THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART AS GIFTED EDUCATORS EQUALLY COMMITTED TO SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE WAS WIDELY KNOWN, AND HE INVITED THEM TO CHICAGO TO OPEN A SCHOOL. THUS THE SEMINARY OF THE SACRED HEART IN CHICAGO BECAME ONE OF MANY SACRED HEART SCHOOLS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES. SACRED HEART SCHOOLS WERE SOUGHT AFTER THROUGHOUT MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICA; BY 1865, 28 SACRED HEART SCHOOLS HAD BEEN FOUNDED IN THE YOUNG NATION. IN CHICAGO, AS ELSEWHERE, THE RELIGIOUS UNDERTOOK THEIR MISSION WITH GREAT ENTERPRISE, ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING SCHOOLS, PURCHASING LAND, AND HIRING ARCHITECTS TO DESIGN BUILDINGS. THEY ALSO OPENED SCHOOLS FOR POOR CHILDREN, IN KEEPING WITH THEIR FOUNDER'S DIRECTIVE OF OPERATING A FREE SCHOOL WHEREVER THERE WAS A SACRED HEART ACADEMY. IN SPITE OF THEIR CLOISTER, THEY WORKED WITH THE PARISH COMMUNITY TO GIVE AID TO THE IMPOVERISHED, ORPHANED AND SICK RESIDENTS OF EARLY CHICAGO.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MOTHER GALLWEY AND HER GROWING TEAM OF TEN SISTERS, THE SEMINARY OF THE SACRED HEART GREW RAPIDLY, NECESSITATING A MOVE WITHIN MONTHS FROM A SMALL RENTED BRICK HOUSE ON WABASH AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO TO A LARGE FRAME MANSION AT RUSH AND ILLINOIS STREETS. THERE AN INTELLECTUAL ORIENTATION WAS ASSUMED, NOT IMPOSED, BY EDUCATORS WHO BELIEVED THAT THEIR CHARGES MUST LEARN MORE THAN THE SOCIAL GRACES. THE SOCIETY'S FOUNDERS, INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED WOMEN WHO HAD WON DIPLOMAS BEFORE TAKING THEIR VOWS, HAD INTENDED THAT SACRED HEART SCHOOLS EDUCATE AND PREPARE YOUNG WOMEN FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN SOCIETY, AND DEVELOPED A STRONG AND WELL-ROUNDED PLAN OF STUDIES DEVELOPED IN 1805 TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. GUIDED BY THIS PLAN OF STUDIES, COURSES, OFTEN CONDUCTED IN FRENCH, INCLUDED SUCH CHALLENGING SUBJECTS FOR YOUNG LADIES AS "PHILOSOPHICAL AND CHEMICAL STUDIES," BOTANY, ALGEBRA, LATIN AND GERMAN, IN ADDITION TO THE MORE TRADITIONAL SUBJECTS LIKE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE AND NEEDLEWORK. BEFORE LONG, THE SCHOOL BECAME WIDELY ACCLAIMED FOR ITS ACADEMIC RIGOR. "THE COURSE IS ACADEMIC AND THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE INSTITUTION SPEAK OF IT AS ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST CREDITABLE IN THE WEST," BOASTED THE CHICAGO TIMES IN 1873.

Yesterday the Seminary of the Sacred Heart was removed from its late quarters in the North Division, on the corner of Rush and Illinois streets, to its new edifice on West Taylor street.

This removal of ordinary household goods, chattels and fixtures was made quite imposing by a procession of forty drays and thirty-five express wagons, in all seventy-five loaded vehicles, looking, especially the last in the line, like the evacuation of the North Side.

CHICAGO PRESS & TRIBUNE,
AUGUST 23, 1860



ca. 1885

The Sacred Heart nuns were pretty strict . . . but when I compare them with the teachers in some of these fashionable finishing schools, where the girls run perfectly wild . . . the convent turned out women: fine noble women.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. DANIEL V. GALLERY
CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, MARCH 9, 1910



SACRED HEART SCHOOLS PRACTICED STRICT DISCIPLINE AS A MEANS TO TRAIN CHARACTER, SELF-CONTROL AND ATTENTION, AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS AND PROMOTE INTERNAL REFLECTION. STUDENTS WERE EXPECTED TO REMAIN SILENT BETWEEN CLASSES AND WALK IN RANKS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. THE ORDER TO SILENCE WAS COMMUNICATED BY THE SHARP CLAP OF THE "SIGNAL," A SMALL, HAND-HELD WOODEN DEVICE, THAT, WHEN SNAPPED SHUT, COULD BE HEARD CLEARLY IN A CROWDED ROOM.

ONE DISCIPLINARY EXERCISE STILL REMEMBERED VIVIDLY BY MANY ALUMNAE WAS "PRIMES," MEANING "PRIZES," PRACTICED IN ALL SACRED HEART SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD UNTIL THE 1960S. ON MONDAYS THE ENTIRE SCHOOL ASSEMBLED, AND EACH GIRL, WEARING WHITE GLOVES, WAS GIVEN A SMALL CARD JUDGING HER CONDUCT DURING THE PAST WEEK. "TRÈS BIEN" CARDS WERE GIVEN FOR "VERY GOOD" BEHAVIOR, THE LESSER "BIEN" CARDS FOR "GOOD" BEHAVIOR, AND DREADED "ASSEZ BIEN" CARDS, MEANING "GOOD TRY," FOR MEDIOCRE BEHAVIOR. UPON RECEIPT OF HER CARD, EACH PUPIL DUTIFULLY CURTSIED TO THE REVEREND MOTHER. CARDS WERE RETURNED TO THE THRIFTY NUNS FOR USE AT THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S PRIMES.

DISCIPLINE WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE FORM OF POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT. THOSE PERFORMING WELL IN CERTAIN SUBJECTS WERE GIVEN MEDALS TO WEAR FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK. HAND-PAINTED, SILVER-FRAMED FIRST AND SECOND MEDALLIONS WERE AWARDED THE TOP TWO LEADERS OF THE SCHOOL, WHO WERE CHOSEN BY A VOTE OF THEIR PEERS. TWICE A YEAR, COVETED "RIBBONS OF MERIT" WERE AWARDED TO THOSE WHO DEMONSTRATED QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY, WITH RIBBONS OF "GOOD CONDUCT" THE HIGHEST OF THESE AWARDS. ONCE AGAIN, A VOTE OF THE STUDENT BODY DETERMINED THE RECIPIENTS, WITH THE NUNS RATIFYING THE FINAL DECISION. DEPENDING UPON THE RECIPIENT'S GRADE LEVEL, A BLUE, GREEN, RED, OR PINK RIBBON WAS WORN PROUDLY FOR THE DURATION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR ACROSS ONE SHOULDER AND TIED AT THE WAIST. THESE STUDENT LEADERS, CALLED THE RIBBONS, HAD THE HONOR OF HELPING THE RELIGIOUS RUN THE SCHOOL, MUCH LIKE TODAY'S STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.

DESPITE SUCH STRICT CODES OF CONDUCT, SACRED HEART NUNS WERE EXCEPTIONALLY TOLERANT OF OTHER RELIGIONS. THEY WELCOMED PROTESTANT GIRLS INTO THEIR SCHOOL FROM ITS INCEPTION AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF NON-CATHOLIC PUPILS. AS A RESULT, MANY PROMINENT PROTESTANT CHICAGO FAMILIES SENT THEIR DAUGHTERS TO THE SEMINARY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PROGRAM. MANY OF OUR FIRST FAMILIES RECEIVED THEIR TRAINING THERE," STATED A HISTORY OF HOLY FAMILY PARISH, "AND OWE TO THE ACCOMPLISHED AND DEVOTED LADIES OF THE SACRED HEART THEIR ACQUIREMENTS IN LEARNING AND IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR WHICH THE INSTITUTION IS STILL PROVERBIAL." AMONG THESE WAS BERTHA HONORÉ, THE FUTURE WIFE OF FAMED EARLY CHICAGO REAL ESTATE MAGNATE AND OWNER OF THE PALMER HOUSE HOTEL, POTTER PALMER.

The wind blew with such violence that portions of the roofs of the burning houses fell in great number in our garden only two feet from our grass. In about three hours, twelve homes were burned. All during this sinister time, someone noticed that a priest walked between the fire and our palisade, he seemed to be praying. In vain it was asked "Who is it?" No one recognized him. Our children answered without hesitating and with great simplicity that they were sure it was St. Michael whom they had so often invoked.

ACCOUNT OF THE GREAT FIRE, HOUSE JOURNALS, OCTOBER 1871

From the outset the seminary drew the daughters of Chicago's first citizens and its popularity has never waned. With the years its reputation as a select place of learning spread until today it is one of the best known private schools in the state and women who are prominent in society the country over were once enrolled as its pupils.

THE NEW WORLD, MAY 11, 1907



THE SEMINARY'S POPULARITY INCREASED STEADILY, PROMPTING THE NUNS TO PURCHASE SEVEN ACRES AT WEST TAYLOR AND LYTLE STREETS IN HOLY FAMILY PARISH IN 1860 FOR A NEW AND LARGER FACILITY. THEIR RUSH STREET BUILDING WAS FLOATED DOWN THE CHICAGO RIVER TO THE NEW SITE WHERE IT WAS UTILIZED UNTIL IT COULD NO LONGER ACCOMMODATE THE SCHOOL'S GROWING ENROLLMENT. THE RELIGIOUS HIRED ARCHITECT JOHN VAN OSDEL, WELL-KNOWN DESIGNER OF THE INTERIOR OF HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, TO DESIGN A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR THE SEMINARY AT 1256 WEST TAYLOR STREET. THE SUBSTANTIAL FACILITY HE DESIGNED CONTAINED ELEVEN CLASSROOMS, TWO LIBRARIES, AN OFFICE, A LARGE PLAY ROOM, AND LARGE MEETING AND RECEPTION HALLS, AND OPENED WITH 450 STUDENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUNS CONVERTED THEIR FRAME BUILDING INTO A FREE SCHOOL FOR POOR CHILDREN. IN FACT, ONE OF THE LAST MATERIAL GIFTS TO THE UNITED STATES OF THE ORDER'S FOUNDER, MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT, WERE FUNDS TO EDUCATE THE 450 GIRLS OF HOLY FAMILY PARISH.

THE RELIGIOUS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN FOR THEIR STUDENTS A QUIET, ISOLATED ENVIRONMENT TO ENHANCE STUDY AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH THAT WAS SEPARATE FROM THE CITY'S WORLDLY TEMPTATIONS, NOISE, AND DISTRACTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, ALL PAYING STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO BOARD AT THE SCHOOL, AND SEVEN ACRES OF GROUNDS SURROUNDING THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS WERE LANDSCAPED WITH WALKS, GARDENS, AND FRUIT TREES TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AWAY FROM THE RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND THE SEMINARY. A SMALL MAN-MADE LAKE EVEN PROVIDED ROWBOATING ACTIVITY FOR PUPILS.

Do you wonder what we shall miss most? Four years of hard work; four years of comradeship; four years in which we have grown familiar with each corner of the house, stopping here or there to compare notes, dates, games, and studies. Together we have worked and prayed and studied . . .

MARY K. BRENNAN, LE DERNIER MOT, JUNE 1939

THE CLOISTERED SACRED HEART NUNS PARTICIPATED FULLY IN THE LIFE OF EARLY CHICAGO. DURING AND AFTER THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE IN 1871, THE SISTERS OFFERED AID TO ALL IN NEED AROUND THEM. WHILE THE FIRE BURNED BLOCKS AWAY, THEY SERVED COFFEE ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT TO FIREMEN WORKING TO CONTAIN THE BLAZE. AS ONE OF THE FEW CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE CITY ESCAPING DESTRUCTION FROM THE FIRE, THE SEMINARY PROVIDED SHELTER FOR THREE WEEKS TO 90 PEOPLE LEFT HOMELESS, INCLUDING BENEDICTINE, GOOD SHEPHERD, AND MAGDALEN SISTERS, BENEDICTINE STUDENTS, AND SOME SACRED HEART FAMILIES. STUDENTS GAVE UP THEIR ROOMS AND SLEPT ON CLASSROOM FLOORS TO PROVIDE ROOM FOR THOSE NEEDING SHELTER. OF THE 75 FAMILIES WHOSE DAUGHTERS ATTENDED THE SCHOOL, 40 LOST EVERYTHING THEY OWNED - HOMES AS WELL AS BUSINESSES - IN THE DISASTER. MORE DISTRESSED AT THE PROSPECT OF LEAVING SACRED HEART THAN BY THEIR MATERIAL LOSS, ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS OF THE DAY, THESE FAMILIES WERE REASSURED BY THE RELIGIOUS THAT THEIR DAUGHTERS COULD REMAIN AT THE SEMINARY. THEIR TUITION PAYMENTS WERE DONATED BY SACRED HEART SCHOOLS IN ST. LOUIS AND ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI, AND MANHATTANVILLE IN NEW YORK.



The new, elegant, and spacious chapel attached to the Convent of the Sacred Heart, West Taylor street, was dedicated yesterday with appropriate ceremonies, in the presence of a select congregation. . .

The ladies of the Sacred Heart are proud of this latest addition to their already extensive academy.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, SEPTEMBER 30, 1879

The floor of the chapel was spotless, indeed, when the sisters were there. Dear souls, they used to iron it with their shoes in the most painstaking way, to wax it thoroughly. Why, I have had priests tell me they feared to walk on that floor without [galoshes].

REMINISCENCE OF MRS. DANIEL V. GALLERY AS REPORTED IN THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, MARCH 9, 1910

About 2 o'clock carriages began gathering around the academy, and in half an hour the streets leading to it in every side were thronged with equipages.

It was the first reunion of the alumnae of the Sacred Heart. . . The Institute of the Sacred Heart for the higher education of women . . . exist[s] now in every civilized country and everywhere stands for the highest culture and noblest womanhood. . . . But until last year and in the city of Chicago there was no association of their past pupils. The honor of inaugurating this association, which will now be multiplied wherever Sacred Heart children are to be found, belongs to this young city of the West.

THE NEW WORLD, JANUARY 26, 1895

DURING THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE FIRE, THE SEMINARY OF THE SACRED HEART WAS DESIGNATED AN OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION CENTER FOR AID BY THE CITY'S MAYOR. BEDDING, CLOTHING, AND FOOD WERE SENT TO THE SCHOOL FROM CITIES ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND EUROPE TO BE DISPERSED TO THOSE IN NEED. THREE FREE MEALS EACH DAY WERE PROVIDED FOR ANYONE WHO CAME TO THEM FOR HELP DURING THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE FIRE. FOR THE NEXT THREE DECADES, THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART WORKED DILIGENTLY WITH PARISH WOMEN, GUIDING AND ASSISTING THEIR EFFORTS TO AID IMPOVERISHED CHICAGOANS, ORPHANS AND THE ILL.

THROUGHOUT THE 1870S, THE SOCIETY'S WORK IN CHICAGO EXPANDED. IN 1876, A NEW AND SEPARATELY-OPERATED DAY SCHOOL WAS OPENED ON DEARBORN STREET NEAR PRESENT-DAY CEDAR STREET. BY 1879, ANNUAL ENROLLMENT IN BOTH THE BOARDING AND FREE SCHOOLS OF THE SEMINARY OF THE SACRED HEART ON TAYLOR STREET HAD GROWN TO APPROXIMATELY 1000 STUDENTS OF ALL RELIGIONS. TO ACCOMMODATE THE GROWING ACTIVITY ON TAYLOR STREET, AN IMPRESSIVE FOUR-STORY SCHOOL BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1879 CONTAINING DORMITORIES, A GOTHIC CHAPEL WITH STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, RECITAL HALL, THEATER, AND 12 LARGE CLASSROOMS. "WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL EDIFICE THE EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SACRED HEART . . . NOW TAKES RANK AMONG THE FOREMOST INSTITUTES DEVOTED TO THE EDUCATION OF THE HIGHER CLASSES IN THIS CITY AND STATE," REPORTED THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE. IN 1886, THE SCHOOL EXPANDED ONCE AGAIN BY ADDING A CHAPEL TO THE 1860S STRUCTURE, WHICH BY THAT TIME HOUSED THE FREE SCHOOL WITH 1000 STUDENTS.

AS THE SEMINARY OF THE SACRED HEART GREW AND CHANGED, SO DID THE CITY AROUND IT. BY THE 1890S, THE TAYLOR STREET NEIGHBORHOOD, LONG A PORT OF ENTRY FOR IMMIGRANTS, HAD BECOME ONE OF CHICAGO'S MOST DENSELY POPULATED RESIDENTIAL AREAS. IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING IN GREAT WAVES WERE BLAMED FOR CARRYING AND SPREADING ILLNESS AS SANITATION PROBLEMS CREATED BY POVERTY AND URBAN AMERICA'S EXPLOSIVE POPULATION GROWTH WERE IDENTIFIED AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF DISEASE. MANY CITY DWELLERS BEGAN TO SEEK A MORE HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT FOR FAMILY LIFE IN COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS.

BEFORE LONG, THE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS RESIDENTS OF THE TAYLOR STREET AREA HAD MOVED AWAY, LEAVING A LARGELY WORKING CLASS OR IMPOVERISHED RESIDENTIAL POPULATION. THESE DRAMATIC URBAN DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES EXPLAIN THE GROWTH OF THE SEMINARY'S PARISH SCHOOL DURING THE LAST DECADES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, WHICH SERVED WORKING CLASS AND POOR FAMILIES. THEY ALSO EXPLAIN THE GREAT NEED FOR PARISH COMMUNITY SERVICE, WHICH THE CLOISTERED RELIGIOUS CONDUCTED THROUGH THEIR GRADUATES AND CHILDREN OF MARY SODALITIES. MANY SACRED HEART GRADUATES WOULD CHOOSE THEIR VOCATION WITH SACRED HEART TO CONTINUE THIS WORK, WHILE OTHERS BECAME ACTIVE IN WORKING WITH ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE AREA. JANE ADDAMS OPENED HULL HOUSE IN 1889,



ca. 1904

When the convent was moved to Lake Forest, the last nun to leave the building [on West Taylor Street] was Sister Mcee. [sic] It was the first time she had gone beyond the high board fence of the grounds in forty-one years.

CHICAGO RECORD HERALD,
MARCH 9, 1910

About eight of the children of West Taylor St. transferred to Lake Forest. Here we found a beautiful building . . . there were only a few dozen houses along the shore between Lake Forest and Evanston.

REMINISCENCE OF VIOLA DORSEY,
RSCJ, CLASS OF 1914, CA. 1920

Parents came on the 2:30 North Western Train to see us, and left on the 4:30 North Shore that met the train in Lake Forest. We were allowed to go only as far as the big oak tree that stood about half way between the house and the station. There there were many tearful goodbyes. That poor old tree took so many kicks and snowballs that it is a wonder it still stands. When I returned to Lake Forest after many years, it was like meeting an old friend, to see the great silent sentinel of school customs.

REMINISCENCE OF VIOLA DORSEY, RSCJ,
CLASS OF 1914, CA. 1920



ca. 1905

THE NATION'S FIRST SETTLEMENT HOUSE TO AID IMMIGRANTS, ONLY BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE SEMINARY OF THE SACRED HEART. YET THIS WAS ONLY ONE OF MANY SUCH EFFORTS IN THE COMMUNITY, AS SACRED HEART GRADUATES FOUNDED MADONNA CENTER IN 1898, CHICAGO'S FIRST CATHOLIC SETTLEMENT HOUSE, AND HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL PARISH IN 1899.

NATIONALLY, THE RELIGIOUS STRUGGLED WITH THESE URBAN PRESSURES. THEIR BELIEF IN MAINTAINING BOARDING SCHOOLS IN RELATIVELY ISOLATED LOCALES TO LIMIT THE INTRUSION OF WORLDLY DISTRACTIONS INTO THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS THEIR ECONOMIC NEED TO ATTRACT FAMILIES OF MEANS WHO WOULD BE COMFORTABLE SENDING THEIR DAUGHTERS TO LIVE AT THE SCHOOL, MADE IT APPARENT THAT SACRED HEART BOARDING SCHOOLS COULD NO LONGER BE ACCOMMODATED IN DENSE URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS.

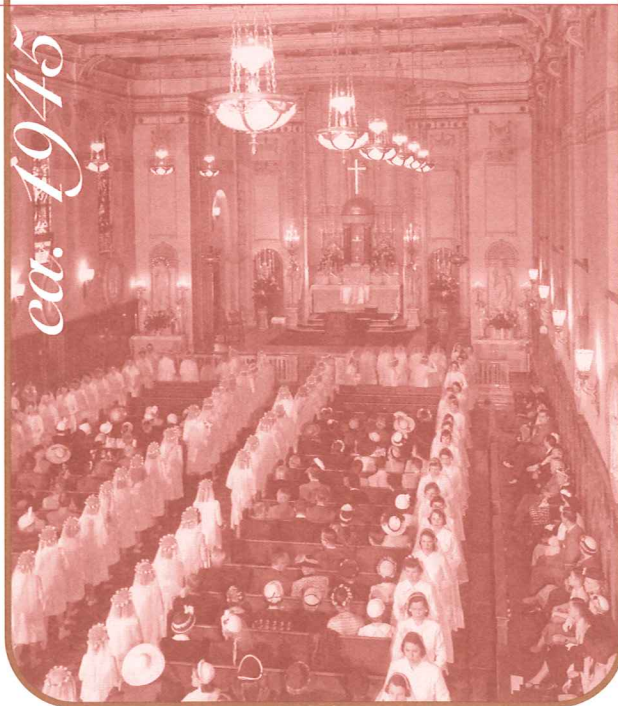
THEREFORE, THE SISTERS BEGAN MOVING THEIR BOARDING SCHOOLS TO LOCATIONS OUTSIDE THE CITY WHILE MAINTAINING DAY AND PARISH SCHOOLS IN THE HEART OF EACH URBAN AREA IN WHICH THEY OPERATED MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL. THUS, THE RELIGIOUS ON WEST TAYLOR STREET BEGAN LOOKING FOR PROPERTY OUTSIDE OF CHICAGO FOR THEIR BOARDING SCHOOL, WHILE THE OTHER SACRED HEART DAY SCHOOL, OPERATED SEPARATELY, REMAINED IN THE CITY. THIS DAY SCHOOL HAD MOVED BY THAT TIME TO THE INTERSECTION OF CHICAGO AND STATE STREETS ADJACENT TO HOLY NAME CATHEDRAL, AND WOULD ULTIMATELY MOVE AGAIN BEFORE LOCATING IN ITS PRESENT BUILDING AT 6250 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD.

IN 1901, A 42-ACRE WOODED SITE THAT WAS EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY TRAIN IN THE TOWN OF LAKE FOREST, NORTH OF THE CITY, WAS PURCHASED BY THE NUNS AS A NEW LOCATION FOR THEIR BOARDING SCHOOL. CONSTRUCTION OF A SCHOOL BUILDING BEGAN IMMEDIATELY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MOTHER VAN DEN ABEELE, WHO SUPERVISED ARCHITECTS JAMES J. EGAN AND CHARLES H. PRINDEVILLE. WELL-KNOWN FOR THEIR MANY CHURCH DESIGNS, INCLUDING SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL IN CHICAGO, AS WELL AS CONVENTS AND CATHOLIC ACADEMIES THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST, EGAN AND PRINDEVILLE DESIGNED AN IMPRESSIVE AND STYLISH THREE-STORY GEORGIAN BUILDING FOR THE (CONVENT) ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART. THE SCHOOL OPENED IN 1904 TO BOTH ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM CAME FROM THE TAYLOR STREET SCHOOL. BY 1910, THE PARISH SCHOOL ON TAYLOR STREET HAD BEEN SUBSUMED INTO THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, SINCE THE CLOISTERED RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART WERE UNABLE TO LEAVE THE CONVENT TO WORK WITH PARISH FAMILIES, AS REQUIRED BY BISHOP'S DECREE, AND THE TAYLOR STREET BUILDING WAS SOLD TO THE CHICAGO HEBREW INSTITUTE.

THE ACADEMY IN LAKE FOREST CONTINUED THE ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS SACRED HEART PROGRAM OF STUDY AND DISCIPLINE. WELL-PLANNED AND THOROUGH PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AND HISTORY WERE AS ADVANCED AS COLLEGE COURSES. SUCH COURSE OFFERINGS EVENTUALLY EVOLVED INTO TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE-LEVEL CLASSES OFFERED AT THE ACADEMY IN LAKE FOREST, WHICH EXPANDED OVER TWO DECADES TO GIVE BIRTH TO BARAT COLLEGE IN 1918. THIS WAS NOT UNIQUE WITHIN THE ORDER: TEN FOUR-YEAR SACRED HEART COLLEGES AND SEVERAL TWO-YEAR COLLEGES WOULD GROW OUT OF THE ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS OF SACRED HEART SECONDARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE NATION.

The Chapel, always so beautiful and so much a part of the tradition which is Sacred Heart, was breathtakingly beautiful on . . . Graduation Day. The Altar aglow with candles was banked with roses, red roses in sharp contrast to the gold and white of the Sanctuary. The graduates . . . entered the Chapel, each girl garbed in white cap and gown, her arms filled with deep red peonies. To those of us who watched they seemed to represent everything that is grace, beauty and dignity.

NOEL BERNER, LE DERNIER MOT, JUNE 1946



I abandoned myself to the abysmal darkness of the fire escape. I rounded the first curve successfully. . . Then, before I knew it, I shot out of the fire escape and fell into the arms of waiting friends.

ANN ELIZABETH TOW,
LE DERNIER MOT, APRIL 20, 1937

THE ACADEMY CONTINUED AS A BOARDING SCHOOL UNTIL 1931, WHEN THE FIRST DAY STUDENTS WERE ADMITTED, AND NUMBERS GREW RAPIDLY ONCE AGAIN. THROUGHOUT THE 1920S AND 1930S, THE ARRAY OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SPORTS, DRAMA AND DANCE, IN ADDITION TO ACADEMIC CLUBS. IN 1939, A LITERARY PUBLICATION, "LE DERNIER MOT," MEANING "THE LAST WORD," WAS CONCEIVED, WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY STUDENTS. THE SCHOOL'S YOUNG WOMEN CONTINUED TO WRITE AND PRODUCE THIS PUBLICATION FOR EIGHT MORE YEARS, AFTER WHICH TIME IT EVOLVED UNDER THE SAME NAME INTO THE ACADEMY'S FIRST YEARBOOK. PORTRAITS OF THE FOURTH ACADEMIC, OR SENIOR CLASS MEMBERS, EACH WEARING A SWEATER AND STRAND OF PEARLS, GRACED THE PAGES OF THIS INAUGURAL 1949 YEARBOOK. SCHOOL PLAYS, OPERETTAS, AND ICE CARNIVALS - ELABORATE COSTUMED STUDENT PRODUCTIONS OF FAIRY TALES PERFORMED ON A SKATING RINK ON THE GROUNDS - ROUNDED OUT THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE. EACH CONGÉ, OR "PLAY DAY," THE NUNS ALLOWED THEIR CHARGES THE RARE AND NOW-LEGENDARY THRILL OF SLIDING THREE STORIES DOWN A SPIRAL CHUTE INSIDE THE SCHOOL'S METAL FIRE ESCAPE.

ENROLLMENT AT THE ACADEMY CONTINUED TO GROW AT ALL GRADE LEVELS, AS WELL AS AT BARAT COLLEGE, DURING THESE YEARS, MAKING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR ALL OF THESE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO SHARE ONE BUILDING. THE DECISION WAS FINALLY MADE TO SEPARATE THE COLLEGE FACILITY BY BUILDING A NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ON A 12-ACRE PORTION OF THE CAMPUS. DESIGNED BY LOEBL, SCHLOSSMAN & BENNETT AND COMPLETED IN 1961, THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF THE NEW BUILDING WAS A MODERNIST CHAPEL WITH A 64 FOOT HIGH TRIANGULAR POINTED STEEL FRAME SUGGESTING THE FORM OF PRAYING HANDS, CLAD IN ALUMINUM AND GLASS. TO COMMEMORATE THIS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE SCHOOL'S GROWTH, A CONTEST WAS HELD TO RENAME THE ACADEMY. ALUMNA CLAIRE BIGGAM MCQUEENY'S ENTRY, "WOODLANDS ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART," WAS CHOSEN TO HONOR THE SCHOOL'S BEAUTIFULLY WOODED CAMPUS.

THE ADVENT OF VATICAN II IN 1967 DRAMATICALLY CHANGED LIFE FOR THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART BY OPENING THE DOORS OF CLOISTERED CONVENTS. THE RELIGIOUS WERE CHALLENGED TO EMERGE INTO A WORLD UNDERGOING DRASTIC CHANGE AND RE-EXAMINE THEIR COMMITMENT AND ROLE WITHIN THIS CONTEXT. NEVER ADVERSE TO CHANGE, THESE DEVOTED WOMEN SOUGHT NEW WAYS OF EDUCATING WITHIN A FRAME OF REFERENCE THAT REMAINED ROOTED IN CHRIST.

THESE WERE DIFFICULT YEARS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. DIMINISHING NUMBERS OF RELIGIOUS TO OPERATE AND TEACH IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REQUIRED THEM TO PAY MARKET SALARIES TO GROWING NUMBERS OF LAY STAFF MEMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME. AS A RESULT OF THIS FINANCIAL BURDEN, THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO CLOSE TEN SACRED HEART SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY ALSO TURNED OVER THE OPERATION OF SACRED HEART COLLEGES TO PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.



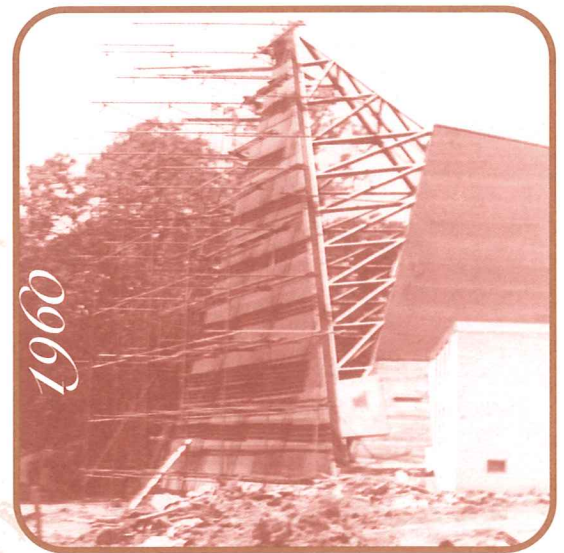
"It's May Crowning!!! . . . the thought of going, it's soooooo nice outside - green, warm, bright, open - you begin to feel very solemn. You listen to the reading and you try to sing - When the time comes for the sign of peace, you look the person in the eye. When you say the "Our Father," you think about the words. You watch Mary being crowned, and you feel like you're a part of this great and beautiful thing that is happening ... part of you is in awe of how beautiful this Mass is. You are struck with this silent feeling in you that is so bright and flowing because you feel connected to everyone standing around you. "Has it always been this beautiful?" you wonder as you pray the final blessing.

JENCY KANICHIRAYIL,
CLASS OF 1999



A historic moment Sunday August 20, 1967. Reverend Mother with a select group of foundresses took official possession of our new academy . . . We went over after the workmen had left to put in an hour or so of cleaning. We stood in . . . what is to be the chapel . . . and sang "Salve Regina" - the first hymn to rise from Woodlands.

DESCRIPTION OF MOVE INTO NEW SCHOOL BUILDING,
HOUSE JOURNALS, 1961



THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHED THE NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS IN 1972 TO HELP STRENGTHEN AND UNIFY THEIR AMERICAN SCHOOLS. THEY DEVELOPED THE GOALS AND CRITERIA OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS IN 1975, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ORIGINAL 1805 PLAN OF STUDIES, TO REACQUAINT THEIR AMERICAN SCHOOLS WITH THE EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND VALUES UPON WHICH THEY HAD BEEN FOUNDED AND WHICH HAD DEFINED SO MUCH OF THEIR WORK IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. THESE GOALS STATE THAT SCHOOLS OF THE SACRED HEART COMMIT THEMSELVES TO EDUCATE TO:

- A personal and active faith in God
- A deep respect for intellectual values
- A social awareness which impels to action
- The building of community as a Christian value
- Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom.

THE GOALS AND CRITERIA RECOGNIZE ISSUES THAT HAVE CHALLENGED SOCIETY FOR OVER 200 YEARS: THE TENSION BETWEEN TRADITION AND CHANGE; CONTINUITY AND TRANSFORMATION; AND SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL. THESE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES EMBRACE CHANGE AS AN OPPORTUNITY AND A STARTING POINT FOR TRANSFORMATION. THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND THEM GAIN AN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR POTENTIAL AND THEIR CALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESHAPING OF SOCIETY.

SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS, NETWORK STAFF HAVE WORKED TO HELP THE 21 SACRED HEART SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRM THEIR MISSION IN A CHANGING WORLD AND LEARN TO APPEAL TO THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR SUPPORT. THE ORGANIZATION ALSO WORKS TO ENSURE THAT SACRED HEART EDUCATION AT EACH OF THEIR SCHOOLS REMAINS STRONG IN STUDIES, SERIOUS IN PRINCIPLES AND RICH IN THE SPIRIT OF LIFE AND LOVE, AND THAT THEIR SCHOOLS ATTEND TO EACH CHILD'S SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT. THE NETWORK IS EXPANDING, BOTH BY ESTABLISHING NEW SCHOOLS TO SERVE RACIALLY AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, AND BY ENCOURAGING THEIR EXISTING SCHOOLS TO ATTRACT AND SERVE INCREASINGLY HETEROGENEOUS STUDENT BODIES.

You've had it happen, I'm sure! You begin speaking to a perfect stranger and discover that you both have a Sacred Heart education in common . . . and you end feeling like you've been with a long-lost cousin.

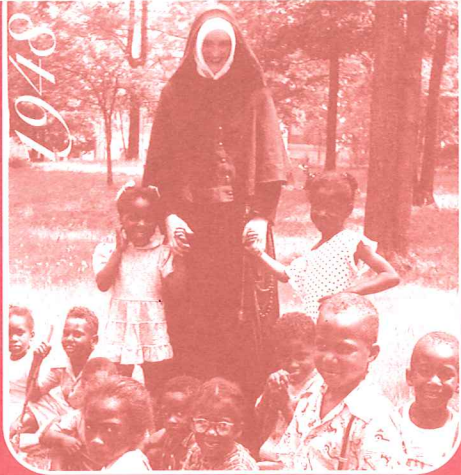
HELEN BRUNS RYAN, CLASS OF 1950

WOODLANDS ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART (1961-PRESENT) SHARES WITH ITS PREDECESSORS, ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART, LAKE FOREST (1904-1961), AND SEMINARY OF THE SACRED HEART, CHICAGO (1858-1904) A COMMON HISTORY. THIS INSTITUTION BELONGS TO THE COMMUNITY THAT BEGAN IN 1800 WITH SAINT MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT'S VISION, AND GREW IN 1818 WHEN SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE FOUNDED THE FIRST SACRED HEART SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS COMMUNITY THRIVES IN OVER 200 SACRED HEART SCHOOLS IN 45 COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TODAY.

WOODLANDS ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART CONTINUES TO GROW IN THE TRADITIONS AND BELIEFS OF ITS FOUNDING RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART BY TEACHING YOUNG WOMEN OF MANY RELIGIOUS, NATIONAL, ETHNIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, AND RACIAL BACKGROUNDS THE VALUE OF SERIOUS STUDY, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND STRONG FAITH. "FOR THE SAKE OF A SINGLE CHILD I WOULD HAVE FOUNDED THE SOCIETY," SAINT MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT STATED, AND IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF EACH YOUNG WOMAN THAT WOODLANDS ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART ENDURES TODAY.

1800-2000

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF SACRED HEART EDUCATION



GHOST OF OLD PUPILS,
DO YOU EVER COME BACK?

DO YOU RECALL THE GOÛTER RANKS,
AND RIBBON, WREATH, AND PRIZE?
DO YOU REMEMBER PRISONERS' BASE
AND ENGLISH EXERCISE?

THE MOON UPON THE CLASSROOM FLOOR
MAKES RECTANGLES OF LIGHT.
DO YOU UNEARTH OLD LOGIC BOOKS
TO STUDY AND RECITE?

AND WHEN A SLINT BELL IS RUNG
DOES SPECTRAL SPEAKING CEASE?
AFTER PRIMES IS THE ROOM ARRANGED
BY A GHOSTLY ADJUTRICE?

DOES THE PEACE OF LONG REMEMBERED YEARS
PERVADE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL,
AS GHOSTS SIT STILL TO HEAR AGAIN
THE READING OF THE RULE?

*By Helen Condon, Class of 1938,
Le Dernier Mot, 1938*



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