

St. Mary's Academy Chronicles

1919-1929

1920 - "True Sisterly Love"

Owing to a shortage of coal, school had to be closed on December 12 and did not reopen until January 6. On January 30 one pupil showed symptoms of scarlet fever and on the following day, another showed the same symptoms, so with the advice of the priests and other experienced persons, we decided to send the children home. They left us on the feast of the Purification and returned to St. Mary's three weeks later. The board of health had decided that all the schools of O'Neill and vicinity could be reopened.

Towards the end of February our dear Sr. Gregoria Colonius became seriously ill. She had dragged herself around for many, many weeks and insisted on being with the children until the last minute. About 4:00 P. M. during her period of surveillance she was obliged, against her will and custom, to sit down. When she was relieved from duty by the Sister following, she went to bed never again to take up her activity with the children. The doctor ordered her to be taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, where after an apparent successful operation she soon passed away. Before her death, she was often visited and consoled by Archbishop Harty. Her remains were brought to O'Neill and her funeral was held on March 4 on a First Friday. R. I. P.

On March 17 the high school pupils gave their annual entertainment which received great applause and praise.

The students' retreat was given during the first three days of Holy Week by Reverend Father Corboy of Creighton University.

During the year opportunities to hear really good music was repeatedly offered to the pupils. On January 22 the Zoellner family entertained us with their excellent achievements. The Zoellner String Quartette always heartily welcomed, earned unusual applause. Equally appreciated was the recital of Mr. Harold Henry, the well-known American pianist. The rendering of the various selections of his program was simply marvelous. In April we were given an interesting lecture on Alaska by Mr. Raine, and in May it was our rare privilege to hear Madam Fauline DuClos on the harp. Many of the older girls who had never seen nor heard a harp were almost enchanted by this beautiful instrument.

On June 14 eighty little tots received their First Holy Communion and on June 16, seventeen pupils were graduated. Graduation was held for the first time in the beautifully decorated assembly hall in our Academy.

During a part of the summer vacation, Mother Mathilde and three Sisters attended the Summer Session of Creighton University, while at the same time here in our Academy 12 Sisters from other houses attended the Summer School. Sr. Annunciata Cahler and Sr. Dolores Disch received their M.A. Degrees from Creighton University. The new school year opened on September 6 with 274 pupils, seventy of whom were boarders. By general acclaim no boy boarders were received.

Shortly before Christmas the pupils presented a well-prepared program and all left for the Christmas holidays full of Christmas spirit to carry the age-old message to all, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will."

During the year the following changes took place: Sr. Eusebia to Sacred Heart, Buffalo; Sr. Magdala to Stella Niagara. Sr. Eugene came from Buffalo. Sr. Alacoque from Los Angeles, Sr. Edelreda von Brixon, now Sr. Maxine, from Stella Niagara to O'Neill. Besides, there were two lay teachers engaged for music, Miss Grenier, of Neligh, as violin teacher and Miss Clifford from Columbus, Ohio for piano. First and second grades were taught by Miss Mary Phalin of O'Neill.

According to all reports, misery still reigns supreme in Germany, so Mother Mathilde generously sent aid repeatedly to our suffering Sisters. May the bond of love between our American and European Sisters thus be strengthened. May the true spirit of sisterly love reign in our congregation, increasing daily, so that in the blessed hereafter, we may have the privilege of resting in the Heart of our Divine Bridegroom Who expects nothing less of us than true love of God and our neighbor.

1921 - "St. Joseph's Grotto"

With grateful hearts we can look back on the past year. It was a year of great blessings for St. Mary's. It opened with 75 boarders and 274 day pupils and we can truly say that a good spirit and an admirable ambition is manifested by all.

On February 7, the inspector of schools visited all the classes and expressed himself as highly satisfied. On February 9, Ash Wednesday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mother Leonarda who remained with us till the following Monday. A concert in her honor was given by the pupils of the Academy. During the year frequent opportunities were given the pupils to hear real artists in our own assembly and to cultivate a taste for the best in music. Through the kindness of the director, Arthur Siebertson of Chicago, we were able to engage these musicians at reasonable prices for the benefit of the school and the intense delight of the pupils.

The pupils annual retreat was given at the end of February by Reverend Father Whelan of Omaha. On March 17, feast of St. Patrick, the high school pupils gave a play, "The House of Sand," in the K. of C. and it won unanimous approval and praise. And in May the grades gave a program which was highly appreciated. A bazaar was held in April which realized \$600.00, just the amount needed for repairing one of the boilers. On June 6, 25 boys and 21 girls received their First Holy Communion. Class Day exercises were held on June 14, and Commencement took place on June 15. Nine young ladies received teachers' certificates and most of them are now active as teachers.

During vacation Mother Mathilde and four of our Sisters attended Creighton University. At the close of Summer School, Sister Alacoque was changed to Alliance and Sr. Angelica came here from Buffalo to replace her in the First Year High. Sr. Louise was transferred to Sacred Heart, Columbus, as Sr. Sabina, novice from Stella, was sent to take up her work in the kitchen. Sr. Lucille went to Alliance and Miss Taylor replaced her in school.

The Sisters' annual retreat was given in August Father Kauffmann, S. J. of Omaha. The day before retreat opened Sr. Eugene, while cleaning windows, fell out, breaking her left arm and left hip. She was no longer able to do her work in the children's dining room, so Sr. Polycarp, from Havre, was sent to take charge of it. On August 3, the new St. Joseph's grotto was dedicated. The "beautiful marble statue is the gift of Mr. Kelly.

As the feast of St. Francis was to be celebrated this year in an extraordinary manner, we prepared for it by a triduum under the direction of Father Henry, S. J.

On October 22, after long anticipation and preparation, we were able to welcome our dear Mother Valeska into our midst. She was led first to the chapel where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given; then to the beautifully decorated refectory of the Sisters where she was greeted heartily in song and speech. The next day, she was greeted in much the same way by the pupils of the school in the assembly. The pupils gave her a purse of \$65.00 as a token of gratitude and the Alumnae Association gave her a purse of \$50.00. Only too swiftly did the happy days pass while she was with us, for on November 2, she left us much to our sorrow, for she had won all hearts.

On November 3, Mother Mathilde took Sr. Melanie to St. Vincent's Orphanage and since her return Mother has had charge of the class taught by Sr. Melanie. No substitute came for the latter.

Christmas holidays began on Dec. 23 and lasted until January 9. Most of the children were at home for the time. On the last day of the year we had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and our monthly retreat, so that ample time and opportunity was offered us to render grateful praise and thanks to the good God for all His benefits of the departing year.

1922 - "Farewell to America"

After a two weeks' vacation our pupils were glad to return to St. Mary's to open the second semester a few days later.

At the beginning of Lent the children's retreat was conducted by Reverend M. McNulty, S. J. On May 9 Confirmation was administered by Archbishop Marty to 58 boys and 80 girls besides many adults. The day, bright with Nebraska sunshine, was a glorious one for the entire parish. The Archbishop had his picture taken with all those he had confirmed that day to be sent to our Holy Father as a surprise.

As a close to his visit, he gave the pupils a free day and a picnic which naturally made all hearts bound with joy.

On June 11, 14 boys and 15 girls received their First Holy Communion. On the same day the Alumnae banquet was held, with 80 persons present. Commencement took place on June 15 and there were 22 graduates. An admirable spirit around the students' prevailed throughout the year and all left us with good reports, promising to be back in school again next year.

During June and July ten Sisters from other houses were here for Summer School. The Sisters' annual retreat was held August 6 to 13, given by Reverend Father Froebus, S. J. On August 18, Mother Mathilde, accompanied by Sr. Antoinette, went to Stella to be present at the Superiors' retreat. Sr. Antoinette remained in Stella as Directress of the Academy. She replaced Sr. Lima who became Novice Mistress. Sr. Dorothy, her predecessor, became Superior at St. Aloysius Academy. The Superiors' retreat was conducted by Reverend Bernard Cohausz, S. J. from August 23 to 31. It was an important one as Reverend Mother Valeska, our General Superior, was present, many superiors and sisters were transferred after the close of this retreat. Mother Mathilde came back to O'Neill with Mother Kostka of Havre and mother Stephen of Sacramento, Calif. Both had been replaced and came to O'Neill to make themselves useful. In March, Sr. Valeria came to replace Sr. Brigitta who returned to St. Ann's, Buffalo. Sr. Longina came from Alliance to take Sr. Loyola's place as the latter was sent to Cowlitz, Washington. Sr. Sabina returned to Stella for profession and was replaced in the kitchen by Sr. Lambertine, a young sister lately from Germany. About the middle of August Sr. Cartona arrived to take charge of the eighth grade. In the latter part of November Sr. Honoria was sent here to take Sr. Angelica's class as the latter had been taken to the hospital in Omaha the last week in October. She was

suffering from a severe kidney ailment and was obliged to remain there after the end of the year, although without any operation. Towards the end of September Sr. Adele, our music teacher, went to Stella to prepare for her return to Germany. In company with Sr. Bona lately professed, who was I going to Europe to study art, and Sr. Aquinas, a novice, to continue her studies in music she made the trip. To replace Sr. Adele, Sr. Angeline came from Los Angeles and took charge of the music department.

At last came the hour when Reverend Mother Veleska had to say farewell to America. After she had again visited some of the western houses, she with Mother Gerard set out on her journey to Vancouver. On the way, Mother Dorothy and Sister Dionysia joined them and all four sailed to Vancouver where Reverend Mother and Sr. Dionysia boarded an English vessel for Java. Both parties were sad at saying farewell. Mother and Mother Dorothy wended their way homeward, the former to Stella and the latter to New Lexington. The year 1922 will be one long remembered.

After Christmas Sr. Annunciata and Sr. Remegia were transferred to Sacred Heart, Buffalo and Charleston, W. Va., respectively. Sr. Electa from Sacred Heart, Buffalo replaced Sr. Annunciata and Sr. Leo from Charleston, came in Sr. Remegia's place. On December 5, Sr. Augustine arrived from New Lexington to help out. Now at the end of the year we thank God heartily for sparing us from all sickness.

1923 - "God will Provide"

The opening of the new school year did not predict the happiest sailing, for many of the pupils did not return after Christmas to the Academy. The financial condition of the farmers hereabouts and of the people of neighboring villages and towns, was not such as to permit them to send their children back to us. They were not even able to pay up their debts for the last school year.

On January 6, the sad news of the death of dear Mother Seraphine Luders reached us. Mother Seraphine, the German Provincial; made a visitation of the American convents in 1907 and so endeared herself to all by her great kindness that she erected a lasting monument for herself in the memory of all who were so fortunate as to meet her. Since her accident in Heythuzen she had been compelled to keep to her bed, but her ever active mind in all its freshness as ever, followed every interest of our beloved Congregation. For the continued existence and further development of the Congregation in the United States, she was especially interested. Our Congregation here in the United States owes her special thanks, as it was she who gave it a strong upward swing and promoted its growth and well-being. Never shall we forget the motherly care she manifested towards us, and her great love for America. R. I. P.

From January 18 to 25 the [Unity Octave](#) as prescribed by our Holy Father was held in our chapel. The program of prayers and songs "That all may be one" was carried out accurately. The second semester opened in February. This month was spent preparing and drilling the grades for an operetta, "Over the Rainbow" which was to be given in March.

On March 11 the children's retreat opened and was conducted by Reverend Andrew Cook, S. J., Chaplain of Cook Co. Hospital, Chicago. Although Father Cook is entirely deaf and can only understand by using an ear apparatus for the deaf, his lectures were unusually interesting and inspiring and held the listeners in rapt attention. The pupils derived great spiritual benefit and one can truthfully say that this was the best retreat ever given at St. Mary's to the pupils. Father Cook has not only a keen insight into the workings of the human heart, but also a warm and understanding heart for children.

On March 17, when the Operetta was to be presented, a heavy snowfall caused it to be postponed for several days. The play demanded a great outlay of time for drill and expense for costumes, but it was played several times, each time winning applause and bringing in a substantial amount at the box office, so that it was really a great success financially.

Sister Angelica who, since October had been at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha under the doctor's constant care returned to St. Mary's on April 15.

On April 26, the Senior pupils presented the play "Old New York." The name was changed to "Lost and Found Again." It was a colonial play of Washington's time. As the City Hall did not have the colonial scenery required, the play was carried in our own assembly, and the scenes and costumes prepared for it were stored away for future use. The young ladies' acting was more like professionals than amateurs and the audience applauded them over and over. They won great praise from everyone present.

On April 29 a Mission, lasting a week, was begun. It was conducted by two Redemptorist Fathers. It was well attended and the two priests held the best attention of the people throughout. On the last three days, a children's mission was added during school hours, and the mission closed with a procession of the children and a consecration to the Blessed Mother of God.

The beautiful month of May brought us again the great joy to see one of our pupils brought into the one true Church.

On May 9, our music teacher, Sr. Angeline Bott, was transferred to Stella Niagara and Sr. Longina to Buffalo. No one replaced Sr. Angeline but Sr. Longina was replaced by Sr. Eligia from Buffalo. Fifteen little boys and sixteen little girls received Our dear Lord for the first time into their pure young hearts during the month of May.

It is customary for them to pray and sing during their First Holy Communion Mass, unassisted by the older pupils. This makes the occasion all the more touching and solemn.

On June 7 a picnic was held on the campus opposite the Academy. A graphophone was set up on the playground and played while the children marched along. Games for prizes were played and races were held. Refreshments were served and the picnic ended by singing a song before the statue of the Sacred Heart. On June 10 the Alumnae banquet was held, and on June 15 Commencement took place with seventeen graduates. Reverend Father Sipchen, S. J. gave the address before a large audience. There was a note of sadness when the moment for farewells arrived, for the girls realized that their happy school days were over. We all hope that the principles and impressions received at St. Mary's may bear abundant fruit in their future lives. Twenty-three boys and girls completed the courses of the elementary grades.

On June 17 Sister Honoria left us for Alliance to help at Summer School. Sr. Leo Lutz was transferred to New Lexington, Ohio and Sr. Electa Mackin left for Buffalo to continue her studies at Canisius College. Sr. Ascensia Popp came to replace Sr. Angeline in the music department. On July 2, while we were assembled in the chapel for Benediction a tornado from the northeast swept over our Academy and was followed immediately by a cloud burst. The storm tore the slates from the roof of the northeast corner of the building and the rain poured in through the openings in the roof, even down to the second story. As soon as the storm abated, the roof had to be immediately repaired. Our two hired men worked till dark on the slippery, sloping roof, even endangering their lives in the attempt. The damage to the

roof was fully covered by insurance, but the fifty little chicks which perished in the chicken yard could not be called back to life. The tornado had swept the chicks, two weeks old, against the barbed wire fence, where they remained hanging, and the cloud burst completed the disaster.

On July 4 a parade was held in O'Neill, led by the youngest citizens of the city—little boys on ponies, bicycles, or in autos; little girls in fancy costumes with their beautifully decorated doll buggies marched majestically through the streets of the city. Among the decorated autos was our float, representing the school, and again the play of March "Over the Rainbow" was featured. At the distribution of prizes St. Mary's won second place.

Retreat for the Sisters opened on July 29 given by Reverend Leahy, S. J. of St. Louis. Mother Mathilde and Sr. Cartona had already made their retreat at St. Francis Mission. The month of August brought us a period of many sacrifices. Many changes were made at that time in our Congregation. On August 19 Sr. Cartona was transferred to Buffalo. Soon after, on August 27, Sr. Ascemsia went to Holy Rosary Mission. On the same day, our good Mother Mathilde left us for Uniontown, Washington. Her successor here was Mother Justine Michels from Denver. She arrived here on August 23. Sr. Honoria and Sr. Electa did not return here after Summer School. Sr. Cyrilla Tormay and Sr. Leontine Simmermacher came to replace them. Sr. Austin King arrived on August 25 to replace Sr. Cartona. The music was taken over by Sr. Hildegard Clauter who arrived on August 21. Sr. Thea Wesselman came with Sr. Cyrilla as Sr. Eligia left us on September 2 for Buffalo. On September 5 school reopened. Sr. Agnella Ritzman who was at the hospital in Alliance for treatment was to come for the first grade, but she was found unable to leave the hospital and take up the work assigned to her. Miss Dorothy Hall, one of the June graduates, was engaged for the class but only for one month, as she had a contract for a rural school to begin in October. For the fourth and fifth grades Miss Helen Connelly was engaged. For vocal, violin, and elocution lessons, young ladies had to be engaged as no Sisters here were able to undertake them. Miss Agnes Shoemaker who had been the assistant in the music department took up the same work this year.

On September 21 and 22, Institute was held in the public School building and our Sisters attended all the sessions. The lectures, given by professors and out-of-town teachers from large cities and universities, were very interesting and instructive and well suited to the purpose of the Institute.

On September 26 Mother Justine celebrated her first name day at St. Mary's. It was a pleasant and enjoyable day. On the next day we celebrated another festal day—one of rare occurrence. Dear old Sr. Euphrasia celebrated her Diamond Jubilee and Mother Justine put forth every effort to make the occasion as solemn and beautiful as possible. During the solemn High Mass the aged Sister knelt on a *prie-dieu* which was decorated symbolically for the occasion. Little girls in white led her into the chapel and Mother fastened the diamond (imitation) wreath on her veil.

The sermon for the occasion was preached by Father Leecker, pastor of Atkinson and the celebrant of the Mass was Father Alberts from Ewing. The latter while in Europe in 1922 for the Passion play at Oberammergau and to visit his relatives, made it his business also to visit our Sisters at Nonnenwerth. Sr. Euphrasia received many beautiful presents and many congratulations. Of the latter, one from Archbishop Moeller of Cincinnati, Ohio, Bishop Hartley of Columbus, Ohio, and Bishop of Covington, Ky.—also others. Good old Sister Martha with Sr. Perpetua came down from St. Francis Mission specially for this occasion and touching, indeed, was the happiness and surprise of Sr. Euphrasia to meet again so unexpectedly this true and tried faithful old sister who had worked so long with her at St. Vincent's. The Jubilarian enjoyed to the full her day of celebration without showing

fatigue and remained with us till evening in order to be present at the little Franciscan program the Sisters had prepared for her.

At the state fair in Lincoln our flowers and garden vegetables were awarded first, second and third prizes. To the joy of all, two of our former pupils (Sr. Patrice McCarthy and Sr. Antonella Troshynski) entered the Novitiate at Stella this fall. Quite unexpectedly the news reached us of Mother Gerard's visitation on October 2. We all rejoiced to be able to welcome her so soon into our midst. As we still had no teacher for the first grade, Mother Gerard called Sr. Ascensia back from Holy Rosary Mission to take charge of it. Besides the work of the first grade, Sr. Ascensia asked, for the opportunity to continue her study of violin, as an excellent violin instructress from the Conservatory came weekly to O'Neill.

From Nov. 19-23, Education Week was held. Every afternoon, a special program was given which was well attended by parents of the pupils, friends, and benefactors of the Academy. No admittance fee was required. The ladies of the parish offered refreshments at reasonable prices in the children's dining room. They had prepared everything in their own homes, so we had no expense but the amount realized was turned over to St. Mary's. After deducting the amount paid out for meat, etc., they were able to give Mother \$197.00.

On November 27 the Reading Circle of our school held their annual meeting in honor of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Entertainment, suitable for the occasion, was offered as also a banquet. The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin is growing, since day pupils are permitted to join. Thirty new members were received on December 8. On December 9 Sr. Eugene left us for Cowlitz as they were badly in need of help.

For many weeks we prepared for a bazaar to be held in our gym on Dec. 13-14. The ladies again had charge of the refreshments and many articles were raffled. The financial returns amounted to \$600.

On December 17 the news of the sudden death of Mother Leonarda reached us. Each of us felt that we owed much to her and that it is our duty now to repay her generously. We at once prayed Office of the Dead for her and had a Requiem High Mass the following morning for the repose of her soul. Not even a year had passed since the death of Mother Seraphine, and she had called after her the faithful companion of her novitiate. What these two great women did for the honor and glory of God is written in the Book of Life. Much, but not all, is known to us. Mother Leonarda's untiring zeal and still more her extraordinary spirit of prayer brought our Congregation in the United States into great prominence and renown. An outstanding characteristic of Mother Leonarda was her childlike cheerfulness and simplicity. She could rejoice and be gladder over a little flower than for rich presents. Like our Holy Father St. Francis, she had deep love and devotion for the Divine Babe of Bethlehem. The writer of this (Sr. Maxine von Brixen) remembers to have seen Mother Leonarda lift the Infant from the crib and kiss its little face, hands and feet. We can well imagine that on the birthday of the Redeemer of the world, Mother Leonarda will be allowed to kneel at His feet, see Him face to face, and receive His divine and loving embrace. R. I. P.

For the first time we had Midnight Mass in our chapel for which we owe special thanks to our little Saviour. The parents of one of our Sisters donated a radio for our Academy and it was set up at once to entertain the Sisters at Christmas. Mr. Hargesheimer, one of our German hired men, worked all day in the cold wind to erect the aerial so that the Sisters could enjoy it on Christmas.

Mother Gerard gave permission for us to take boy boarders again from the grades only, so the preparations for them are being made during the Christmas holidays.

The year of 1923 began under the stress of many difficulties, but Divine Providence turned everything to the welfare of St. Mary's so that at the close of the year, we can with all our hearts render Him grateful praise and love. Crosses and sufferings will not be wanting in the coming year, but as children of our Blessed Foundress, we shall raise our eyes towards the heavens which here on the prairie stretch as deep azure canopy over us, and say with her in Franciscan simplicity, "God will Provide."

The personnel of St. Mary's at the close of this year is as follows: 22 Sisters, 50 boarders, 2 hired men, 2 housekeepers, and two lady teachers who live in the Academy.

1924 - "Unity of Purpose"

After a beautiful, congenial Christmastide, school reopened on January 7. As we could now take boy boarders, St. Mary's personnel was increased by the arrival of four boys.

Our two lay teachers for dramatics and voice culture arranged a pleasing evening program for the entertainment of friends of the school, the Sisters, and the pupils. It was an exhibition of the progress the pupils had made in the above named studies. A very interesting playlet, "The Ninth Promise of the Sacred Heart," was carried out on February 14 by the pupils of the Junior class.

A change was made in the community in February when Sr. Cyrilla was transferred to the East. Sr. Etheldreda Brackin who was now qualified for high school, took charge of the Junior class. Sr. Augusta Hoefling came from Columbus for the fifth and sixth grades. On February 17 the children's retreat began and was given by a Redemptorist Father, Reverend G. Sunday. He requested that grade children including fifth and sixth grades should participate in the retreat.

Every Tuesday evening, during Lent, our chaplain gave a Lenten sermon for Sisters and children in the chapel.

An Operetta which was to be given by the grade children on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 had to be postponed as the majority of the children were down with the measles. A very interesting lecture on the works of Canon Sheehan was given here on March 25 by Miss Kathryn Hennessey. The lecture was well attended by the people of the city.

On three afternoons in April Judge Dickson, District Judge, gave lectures to our pupils on the following theme: "Which are the outstanding features of our government based on the U. S. Constitution?" His motive was to instruct the pupils so that they could take part in a prize contest on this subject. One of our pupils won the prize in our district and received a gold medal from Judge Dickson.

Sr. Laurentine, who had long been ailing, became unable during Holy Week to continue at her work in the kitchen. Most generously, Sr. Angelica offered to take her place during Easter vacation. At its close Sr. Thea and Sr. Rolanda shared the work of the kitchen.

Forty Hours Devotion was conducted by the Redemptorist Father, Reverend Schott, during April. The attendance was unusually good. On May 9 the Operetta which had been postponed on March 17 was presented most successfully. In spite of down pouring rain, all seats were filled and the audience was

more than delighted. At the beginning of May, we celebrated the eightieth birthday of our dear old Sister Euphrasia. It gave her great pleasure.

Our lay teachers surprised us with an evening entertainment which was very pleasant and interesting. They, themselves, did the acting, singing and playing, all of which was excellent. We heard exceptional recitations, songs, piano selections, and the excellent playing of our violin instructors. The usual events at the end of the school year—class play, alumnae banquet, etc. had to be interrupted for the First Communion of our little boys and girls. The real close of high school was on June 11, when 20 young ladies received diplomas for having completed the required courses.

Hardly were these busy days over, when trunks and suit cases had to be packed. Sr. Angelica Thimmes was transferred to St. Leo's, Columbus, Ohio, Sr. Kostka to St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance, Sr. Lambertine Rohr also to St. Joseph's, Alliance, to be under the doctor's care, Sr. Etheldreda Bracken to St. Agnes, Alliance, to be one of the teachers of Summer School, and Sr. Dolores Disch went to the Catholic University at Washington D. C. for a special course.

The month of July passed pleasantly as a real vacation, but vacation days were not over yet when more sacrifices were demanded. Sr. Leontine went to Buffalo and Sr. Thea to Stella during the first week of August. They were called away during the retreat of the Sisters. Without further disturbance, we finished our retreat which was conducted by Father Justin, O. F. M. of Denver. A few days after the close of retreat, Sr. Austin King left us to take up her work elsewhere. Before the opening of the new school year in September, the vacancies had been filled by newly arrived Sisters. The new teachers were: Sister Lydia Fernbach, Sr. Roberta Clouter, Sr. Humiliata Penry, and Sr. Serafia Strot. Sr. Assissia came to take charge of the children's dining room and the sewing room, and Sr. Alexandra Haller came as our new cook.

On September 9 school opened with 243 children, 65 of whom were boarders. A good spirit reigns among the pupils and they apply themselves to study with great zeal. So far, we have not had to engage any lay teachers which aids greatly in unity of purpose and achievement. It is a source of regret and worry that the authorities in Lincoln are not willing to accept credits from other states. On this account, mother Justine had to take charge of the ninth grade until Sr. Serafia had obtained her Nebraska certificate and could release her.

At the beginning of September, considerable repair work; had to be done on the ground floor. The large room adjoining the bakery, which had formerly been the furnace room and later the room containing apparatus for lighting by gas, was turned into a lunch room for the country day pupils who remained here at noon, bringing their lunch from home. In the bakery, the unreliable benzene motor was replaced by an electric motor. Mother's name day closed the eventful month of September, but we must add that the children's retreat opened on September 28 and closed on October 2. It was given by Father Carr, O. F. L. of Denver. It was the first time that a Franciscan had given our Sisters a retreat, and as he was an experienced missionary who had been in the World War as Chaplain on the field of action, his lectures, coupled with his dignified appearance, could not fail to make a lasting impression on the pupils. During this month of the Holy Rosary we had daily recital on the rosary in chapel, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. November passed uneventfully except for a zealous preparation for Christmas.

Under the direction of Sister Humiliata several basketball teams have been formed and this affords the girls ample physical exercise.

On December 8 reception was held for new members of Our Ladies Sodality. It was a source of regret that the party planned in connection with it could not be held, owing to a severe snow storm which lasted several days.

We had Midnight Mass again in our chapel, and our example and zeal for this permission worked so well that Midnight Mass was held also in the parish church for the first time in its history.

The health of our Community this year was good except that of Sr. Lambertine who was in bed for a long time, but our boarders had the usual children's ailments, croup, measles, etc. The garden vegetables, potatoes, etc. were abundant and our cows and pigs were all that could be desired of them.

St. Mary's has 21 Sisters, 68 boarders, 2 hired men and a hired girl. We bring this year to a close with deepest thanks to the good God for all His loving care of us and hope and pray that He may continue to shower His blessings on us in the coming year, especially, as this is the Silver Jubilee of the house.

1925 - "Opens its Doors"

With the exception of two, all our boarders returned after Christmas vacation, and these two were replaced by new ones. Sr. Rolanda Bonnes was transferred at the beginning of the year, and she was replaced by Sr. Praxedes Assel who came from Denver.

On January 18 through the influence of St. Mary's, a concert was given in the City Hall. The members of the troupe which furnished the excellent music were inhabitants of Hawaii. As Hawaiian music is so popular at present, the concert was presented to a packed house. A second concert to be given by the well-known Zollner quartet had to be dropped, owing to the severe illness of one of the members.

The boys of Father Flanagan's Home for destitute boys staged a free play which was attended by our pupils. It was for the benefit of the Home and a shower of free gifts for this purpose made the undertaking worthwhile as a benefit.

On St. Patrick's day, March 17, the Seniors presented a play entitled "The Princess Kiku." Every seat was sold before the performance and, to accommodate the ever increasing number of friends and well-wishers, chairs and benches had to be carried in so that finally no passage way was left clear. Other numbers, songs, and declamations preceded the play, and couples of little boys and girls in old-fashioned Irish costume appeared on the stage and sang various lively little Irish songs. A spectroscope, presented by the Seniors, was used for the first time, and added much towards the success of the program.

The days after the beautiful Easter holidays passed very rapidly, filled with the many activities which belong to the closing of the school year. On May 31 fifteen of our little tots received their First Holy Communion. The grade school closed on June 5 and on June 10 Commencement took place. The Sisters' retreat began on June 21, conducted by Father O'Brien, S. J. These were veritable recreation days for soul and body after the fatiguing hurry and scurry of the last weeks of school. At the close of retreat, Sr. Lydia went to Buffalo to attend Canisius College. Sr. Ascensia went to Denver to be temporary organist at St. Elizabeth's, and at the same time to get extra instructions on the violin from Sr. Vitalis.

Vacation which passed quietly and pleasantly gave the Sisters an opportunity to rest and to gather new strength, if the broiling heat of Nebraska summer would permit them to do so. The thermometer rose to 108° Fahrenheit and the crops in our vicinity suffered immensely, as the heat continued through the

summer. Corn was completely ruined—burned up by the intense heat and but little hay and few potatoes were saved. From August first on, the cattle had to be fed dry fodder as the pastures were turned into desert areas. It was at this time of crop failure and general depression that repair work had to be made in our heating system. The work was carried on during the greatest heat and many unexpected difficulties presented themselves. As it was impossible to get at one part of the heating system, the wall had to be broken open from outside and the ground floor excavated to a depth of about 16 to 18 feet so as to get down into the cellar. Two mechanics from Sioux City did the work and boarded at the hotel for four weeks. It is worthy of note, that our hired man, Conrad Loehr, took the place of one mechanic, thus saving the Academy quite an item of expense. With permission from both Gerard repairs were begun in July on the chapel. The ceiling which was continually casting down its loosened plaster was replaced by a steel one of Gothic design. Instead of the small door at the entrance to the chapel, a large glass one in Gothic style with a window on either side was erected. The balustrade along the choir was also removed and a new one put in. The frescoing of the chapel was done by the firm of Fuchs & Dehle of Omaha. The colors are now artistic, bright, and cheerful. The altars are done over in white enamel and the electric lights harmonize splendidly in daylight through their delicate tints, with the other decorations of the chapel. At night, they fill the room with a soft, white light, wonderfully bright. A new clock with chimes was donated for our chapel by the Catholic Daughters of America and the melodious tones of this artistic timekeeper, as it rings out the quarters and hours, tends to increase the devout feelings which pervade the mind of one contemplating the beauty of our little chapel.

Our Community was called upon to make two sacrifices. Sr. Hildegard Clauter was transferred to Cowlitz and Sr. Assissia Sheitinker to St. Francis Mission. In their stead came Sr. Antonia Binner for Sr. Hildegard and Sr. Olinda Tewilt for Sr. Assissia. Sr. Winifred Sweeney also came to work again at St. Mary's. One of our pupils, Pauline Wierer entered the novitiate at Stella in August.

School reopened on September 1. As we had expected and feared, fewer boarders arrived than in the previous year. Many parents hesitated and could not decide so that the boarders who did come were late in doing so. Besides, the intense heat of the first weeks of school prevented to a great extent any serious application to study.

In accordance with the wish of Reverend Mother, St. Mary's opened her doors for the first time to high school boys, but only ninth graders to begin with. About the middle of September Mother Gerard arrived for visitation, and as we had not seen her for two years, it was a great pleasure for us. Mother Justine's nameday was celebrated in the usual joyful and happy manner. A splendid rain, lasting three or four days, so refreshed the dry and burnt surroundings that all was fresh and green for the celebration of our Silver Jubilee. The celebration began on October 1 with a solemn High Mass in our chapel, as this was to be more for the community end for visiting Sisters. Our visitors were, Sr. Kostka Sr. Cleopha, Sr. Laurissa Tierney, Sr. Jolenta, Sr. Teresa, and Sr. Bertranda. Theodore Piekenbrock also was happy to accept an invitation to be present. He had worked on the first building with Brother Stander, and St. Mary's owed much to his generosity and interest for her welfare. He was janitor at the convent in the first years of its existence. October 22 was the day appointed for our pupils. A banquet was served for them in the children's dining room which was beautifully decorated in white, blue and silver. This of course was a free day, and closed with a play suitable for the occasion, in the City Hall. The play consisted of three parts. The first part was of a symbolic nature. The spirit of the church and the spirit of the prairie opened the play with a dialogue. Their theme is the building of the convent school by the parishioners of St. Patrick's. During their talk, a bright flame appears, that which destroys the first convent immediately after its completion. Both speakers fall to their knees, weeping, but a

brown-robed Franciscan in the garb of our Order appears as the "Love of our holy Father, St. Francis" and offers help. This first part closes with a tableau, Hope, according to the famous painting by Watts. Two of our former pupils sang a duet back of the scenes,—voices of Hope. The explanations for the different acts were given by one of the pupils who between acts read in a loud clear voice the whole history of St. Mary's, referring to the various scenes being presented. The second part showed the first A, B, C class with its young teacher. The erection of a new sanctuary was vivified in a most pleasing picture. An adoring angel, assisted by two smaller angels before the Blessed Sacrament, was lighting the new sanctuary lamp. Then came the First Communicants and the Children of Mary. The tableau shown here was the Children of Mary under the protection of the patroness of the house, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The third part of the play depicted the later years of the Academy. The boys of the ninth grade held a mock meeting of the City Council where a discussion took place about the closing of the street which crossed our premises. This action had taken place in order to enable us to erect a new building in 1910 when mayor Ed. F. Gallagher was in office. Those of our pupils who had consecrated their lives to God in religion were represented by a band of virgins clothed in white garments, who turned away and despised the luring spirits of a worldly life and devoted themselves to the angels of the three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. This last part ended with a tableau of Alma Mater and the choir, singing "O God we praise Thee." These festivities found the greatest acclamation from everyone and they are often recalled with great admiration. The next day began with a Requiem High Mass for all the deceased Sisters who had labored here, and for deceased pupils and friends of St. Mary's. A banquet was given in the afternoon to former pupils—Alumnae—and invited guests. In the beautifully decorated gym the tables were set and a large gathering assembled to revive old friendships and recall past happenings in pleasant fashion. Toasts were given, jolly and serious, with songs and declamations and variations. The appearance of graduates of each of the past 25 years, dressed in the style of her day, and marching around the room to music, called forth prolonged applause. The music for this occasion was furnished by the city orchestra under the direction of Dr. Luebker. Just before the close of the banquet little Louise O'Donnell presented a purse to St. Mary's amounting to \$3,000. This had been collected by the Alumnae members and people of the parish. It was used to defray the expenses caused by the renovation of the chapel. The last day of the Jubilee celebration was given over to a church celebration and the afternoon was spent in visiting with friends and benefactors of the Academy. The sermon on this occasion was given by Reverend Father Grollig, S. J. from St. Francis Mission who had come down especially as our guest. With gratitude to God we ended these days of celebration—also with hearts full of joy and happiness. The memories of it will dwell long in the minds of all who witnessed it, and it will often be recalled with gladness of heart. But joy is often turned to sorrow. About the middle of October, Sr. Praxedes had the misfortune to get her hand caught in the electric bread mixer, while she was preparing the dough. It was badly cut and crushed. The doctor who was called immediately declared that her middle finger would have to be amputated. Westormed heaven and held novena after novena to Mother Magdalen, but the will of God was adverse to ours and to that of the doctor. After untold suffering, at the beginning of December, the middle finger had to be taken off. Her whole hand was badly inflamed and healed slowly, and the index finger also had to be amputated.

On December 8, reception of 20 young ladies into the Sodality was held. A play of serious theme was given on December 12.

To the great benefit of our coal supply, our winter has been an open and mild one with no frost and no snow. However, just before Christmas, the Nebraska winter proclaimed his arrival with heavy frosts and snow, and amid scenes of icicles and frosted trees, we passed a quiet and peaceful Christmastide.

Again we were permitted to have Midnight Mass in our newly renovated and beautifully decorated chapel. Our good friends and benefactors sent us oranges, apples, cakes, etc. in abundance to make sure that our Christmas would be a Merry one.

We close this year with deepest thanks to the good God Who strengthened and supported us in sorrow as in joy during the past year.

1926 - "O'Neill Has Changed"

After Christmas vacation, our boarders all returned and their number was increased by several newcomers which made the New Year appear full of good cheer and hopes for success.

On January 17, under the auspices of our Academy, a vocal concert was given in the K. of C. Hall by a male quartet from a conservatory in Chicago. The songs were chosen from those dealing with colonial times of North America and the singers appeared in the costumes of that day.

On January 27, fire broke out in our cellar and its cause was never discovered. In spite of the fact that it was late at night, it was noticed in time to prevent any great damage. Conrad Lohr, our engineer and janitor, dashed through the suffocating smoke and had the fire almost extinguished when the fire department arrived. To make sure that the fire was really out, they applied their chemicals.

A pleasant evening of fun and frolic was furnished us in February by the ninth grade boys who presented the operetta "Freshies," and the eleventh grade girls who put on a one-act play, "Lady Frances." On February 11, a religious play was given portraying the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes to Bernadette. On February 14, Mother gave the boarders a party in honor of their much loved St. Valentine's Day. On February 26, a lecture was given here for the ladies of O'Neill by Dr. Anne Nicholson, as representative of the Catholic Welfare Conference. Her subject was: The necessity for Catholic Women's Clubs for the protection of young girls. Admission was free to all.

About the middle of March, the retreat for our students opened, given by Reverend Andrew Cook, S. J. who had conducted one here four years previous. He was received with enthusiasm on the record he made at the last one. His practical points and applications found attentive, willing listeners, especially when he repeated again and again, "The only really happy life is a holy life." The students showed great recollection and attention to his lectures, as did also former students who attended, especially on Saturday and Sunday.

The month of April was uneventful, but May brought some changes in the Community. Sr. Polycarp went to St. Aloysius, New Lexington, and Sr. Reiharda Christmann came from there to O'Neill. On May 31 the Alumnae banquet was given. On June 2 Commencement was held with 18 young ladies completing the prescribed course of studies.

The Sisters' retreat opened June 8 and was conducted by Reverend F. D. Stephenson, S. J. Before the opening of the retreat, Sr. Lydia was transferred to Alliance, St. Agnes Academy, and Sr. Josaphat Grady came from there to replace her. A week after the close of retreat, Sr. Roberta, Sr. Maxine and Sr. Praxedes went to St. Francis Mission to make their retreat. Sr. Josaphat had arrived here too late to make retreat, so she, too, went to St. Francis with them. Sr. Praxedes did not return to O'Neill-with the other three Sisters, as word had come from Mother Gerard that she was to remain at St. Francis and to be replaced by Sr. Bernita Betzhold.

Mother Justine and Sr. Dolores left on June 20 for Chicago to attend the International Eucharistic Congress. As they had received an invitation to visit Stella Niagara, they did not return until July 5. From July 18-21, we had the honor to have Reverend Father Humilis, O. F. M., of Los Angeles, Calif., as our guest. He, also, had attended the Eucharistic Congress, and on his homeward trip stopped off here and there to meet old friends.

During the last week of August, Sr. Augustine arrived here from Uniontown, Wash., to become one of our community. An automatic electric apparatus was installed and connected with our refrigerator so that we can manufacture our own ice at all seasons of the year. This is less expensive and more sanitary than getting the ice from the sluggish rivers of Nebraska.

It was with some apprehension that we saw the new school year approaching. The past spring and the first half of the summer months had been so hot and dry that no good crops could be expected and now, to crown it all with complete failure, heavy rain and hail in the second half were of very frequent occurrence. The hail stones were as large as hens' eggs. A bit of consolation, however, came in the form of a second crop of hay. The dried, burnt prairie became fresh and green and the foliage of the trees was a beautiful golden color, something rare here, for the leaves are usually so dry and burnt that they fall to the ground before autumn arrives.

During vacation, we made a pilgrimage every evening to the statue of Our Lady of Victory that she should bring us many good boarders, and she blessed our efforts in a wonderful way. We had the same number as the previous year, but a better class of children, always pleasant and satisfied, but among all these young ladies not a single vocation to the religious life - no postulant for Stella Niagara.

Mother's name day passed in the usual way with song and gladness. Reverend Father Cassidy, our pastor, who was ailing and his niece who kept house for him also frequently ill, went to a summer resort. As the maid took her vacation during their absence, the assistant, Father Brady, took his meals at the convent.

Mother Justine had planned a triduum in preparation for the seventh centenary of our Holy Father St. Francis. At first, it was intended to be only for the Sisters, but later arranged to have a retreat for the students connected with it, so as to awaken in their young hearts the true spirit of St. Francis. Reverend Francis Gliebe, O.F.M., of Los Angeles, who has three sisters in our congregation, conducted the exercises which seemed to bear abundant fruit.

On October 14 a concert was given in our assembly by a young violinist named Farbman. It was well attended and the audience rendered hearty applause to the splendid technique of the player.

Nothing of importance happened during the month of November except the election of state and county officials. The Sisters took part and registered their votes. In the last few years O'Neill has changed in some respects. The Catholics who founded the town and were in the majority always set the pace in public and social affairs, but many Protestants of good standing have settled here also, and work to some extent against the Catholics. On this account, the election did not turn out as we desired. Our Catholic superintendent of schools, Miss Anna Donohoe, a great friend and benefactor of St. Mary's, was obliged to give up her position to her opponent.

At the beginning of December, Sr. Augustine was transferred to Minot, N. D. to take charge of the office work as requested by Mother Borgia Schneider. Reception of the Sodality was held on December 8.

On December 21, the pupils presented a Christmas play most pleasing to everyone. By evening the house was almost empty as all except seven left immediately after the play for home and Christmas holidays. On Christmas Eve we again had the happiness of kneeling before our Christmas Crib in the chapel and of having Midnight Mass followed by two low Masses, as Father Cassidy, for the past eight weeks, had two assistants. Our good benefactors remembered us as usual with turkeys, geese, ducks, cakes, etc.

We close this year with hearty thanks to God, begging His blessing for the coming year. Twenty-two Sisters are working at St. Mary's.

1927 - "Sacrifices"

With great confidence in God's help, we entered upon this new year. The children returned in the best of spirits, and the school work continues as heretofore.

Mother Justine with a postulant went to Stella Niagara. On her return, she brought with her Sr. Armella Orlossky who took charge of the laundry. Sr. Reinharda went to St. Ann's, Buffalo. Sr. Bernita was also called away, and replaced by Sr. Rolanda. On January 25, Mr. Ralph Leopold, a pianist of note, gave a concert in our hall. It was his first visit to O'Neill, but the same applause was accorded him here as he was accustomed to receive in the large cities where he has given many concerts. He proved to be a most interesting entertainer, and after the concert told us that he had studied in Berlin, and Breslau, Dresden, Gorlitz, and in the mountains of Saxony. He was well acquainted in all these places.

On February 17, the pupils staged the historical play by Mark Twain, "The Prince and the Pauper. It deals with the childhood of Edward VI during his father's (Henry VIII) reign. It was carried out to perfection and the rich apparel, fitting to the times, which were rented from a firm in Omaha, added greatly to the attraction of the play.

Our Freshmen teacher, Sr. Remigia Finneran, became dangerously ill of carbuncles and Mother Gerard sent Sr. Electa to help out for several weeks. On February 18, C. W. Taylor visited our school as state inspector and expressed himself as well pleased with everything. We enjoyed another concert given this time by the contralto, Mrs. Edna Swanson ver Haar, who had visited O'Neill before. Her singing was highly appreciated by all and the concert was a great success.

At the end of March, Mother Justine went to Stella Niagara to take part in the retreat for superiors which opened on April 8. During her absence we had one of our most severe snow storms. The snow was wet and heavy and hung like lead on our great old trees. To shake it off was impossible, for it clung tenaciously to the branches and broke several of them off. We were completely snowed in. The railroads were blocked and other means of transportation failed as everyone feared to attempt a passage through the giant snow drifts often as high as a large building. Some of the boarders who had not left for Easter vacation had to remain here. In spite of it all, we rejoiced to have Mother back with us again for the latter part of Holy Week.

The few weeks remain till the close of school we re filled with restless activity. The two parlors and the guest room were badly in need of repairs. A new steel ceiling was placed in each and the ceiling and walls painted in light pleasant colors to match the other furnishings of the rooms. They are simple and plain but beautiful. Our pupils of the grades and high school took part in a contest for excellent penmanship, and won seven out of the eight prizes offered for the best contestants.

On April 6 the Seniors gave their annual class play in which all took an active part and received great applause. Commencement took place on June 1 when sixteen young ladies received their diplomas of graduation.

The Sisters' retreat opened on June 6 and was given by a Marist father from Washington, D. C. During the retreat Bishop Beckman of Lincoln, who is also Administrator of Omaha, arrived in O'Neill and administered Confirmation, to 100 or more candidates. After the close of the retreat, Sr. Alexandra, Sr. Ethelareda went to Holy Rosary Mission to make retreat. At its close, Sr. Etheldreda and Sr. Winifred went to Omaha to attend the Creighton Summer Session. Sr. Humiliate and Sr. Valeria Klein went to Alliance, the former to help in the Sisters' Summer School there at St. Agnes, and the latter to take treatment at the hospital. Mother Justine and Sr. Dolores attended a Catholic school meeting in Detroit the latter part of June. The Eucharistic Congress of Chicago was shown here in O'Neill in the movies, and the Sisters were permitted to attend.

In July plans for the longed-for new addition were studied and considered. The first plan by the architect, Steele of Sioux City, left much to be desired, but the second plan was accepted. About the middle of August bids were offered for the erection of the north wing, and after much competition, the building of it was given over to Mr. Daniel O'Connell of Atkinson for \$15,000. This new wing extends northward, back of the front staircase of the first building. It connected with the convent by a large skylight. On the ground floor of this wing are found the bakery, a store room, milk cellar, a small dining room for workmen, etc. In the two upper stories are ten cells for Sisters, bathroom and lavatories, a community room, and two large light airy verandas. Mother Justine found great difficulty in raising the funds necessary for the building, as the people in this vicinity have lost their crops year after year and business is at a standstill. By and by, she managed to get enough to permit the work to go on continuously. When the excavations began, unexpected difficulties presented themselves. The ground was filled with pebbles, stones debris from the former convent, built by the parish and destroyed by fire. Owing to this, the work progressed very slowly. Large stones could be removed only with very great exertion, and hollow places had to be filled in before the real work on the foundation could be started. The erection of the building was entrusted to good St. Joseph who as special patron, was to watch over all. During the last month of vacation several changes in the personnel of St. Mary's took place. Sr. Stephen went to St. Rita's, Columbus as superior, and Sr. Pauline replaced her here in the second grade. Sr. Valeria did not return here from the hospital in Alliance, but was transferred to St. Charles' Seminary, Columbus. Sr. Eleanor came in her place. Sr. Augusta, who taught fifth and sixth grades, was called to St. Ann's, Buffalo, and Sr. Albertine came here to take up her work.

School reopened on September 5. A very large number of boarders were registered, and we ascribed this blessing to a special devotion to Our Lady of Victory, held during vacation. During the first days of school the number was 75 and soon it went up to 80 or more.

Towards the end of September, Sr. Antoinette arrived to supervise the school. She remained here until October 13 and was present for the installation of Father Cassidy as a member of the Holy Father's Household with the title of Right Reverend Msgr. Bishop Beckman carried out the investiture. Archbishop Keane of Dubuque, and Bishop McGovern of Cheyenne, Wyoming, were here also besides a large number of priests. The Mass for the occasion was sung by a well-drilled priests' choir with a priest as organist. Three days were dedicated to these festivities. Dinner for the Bishops and Priests was prepared in the afternoon in the Golden Hotel while the same service was offered to the parish in the evening. Thirty-eight of the clergy were present, counting the Bishops.

During the last week of October Mother Gerard, our Provincial, was with us for visitation.

Again Mother Justine had to make a trip, on business, to insure the progress of the new wing. An arrangement with the Josephinum for necessary funds had failed, and other sources had to be sought. In the meantime, extremely cold weather set in, such as had not been known for 40 years. It was very difficult to continue the plastering of the rooms. Coal stoves were heated night and day in the rooms, and large open sheet iron vessels half filled with coke were kept burning all the time to prevent the plaster from freezing. The openings between the rooms had already been cut but no doors attached, so the holy season of advent offered numerous mortifications and sacrifices in the way of dusty building debris, and coal gas. However, the severe weather soon subsided, and work could be carried on more easily.

On December 8 a very large number of day pupils and boarders were received into the Sodality. The Christmas holidays soon arrived, and eleven boarders remained here during vacation. This year, no Midnight Mass was held in the church nor in the chapel, as Right Reverend Msgr. Cassidy's health would not permit it. Besides, he had now only one assistant. We were all sorry to lose this privilege, but the deprivation gave us another present to lay at the feet of our Infant Saviour.

During Christmas vacation our faithful hardworking Sr. Salome, who had been here many years, was transferred to St. Vincent's, Columbus, and Sr. Juventia came on Dec. 28 to take her place.

With grateful thanks to God for the blessings of the past year, and with perfect trust in His help for the future, we bring this year to a close. The personnel at St. Mary's at present is: 22 Sisters, 80 boarders, two hired girls and two hired men.

1928 - "A Hidden Saint"

On January 12, just a few days after school reopened, the pupils' retreat began. It was conducted by a Marist father, Reverend William Dwyer. He had given retreat to the Sisters during the past summer. Father Dwyer won the hearts of the children by his extraordinary love and devotion to our Blessed Lady. Through a portrayal of the ideal love of a child for its own human mother, he led the young souls to realize the depth and beauty of a true devotion to Mary.

The New Year opened with a visit of a priest which was followed soon by several other visits from outsiders. The diocesan school superintendent was the guest of Msgr. Cassidy for two days, and during his time, he acquainted himself with the work of the Sisters in school—the school plan, periods of instruction, etc. He was very favorably impressed with the work and was not sparing in his praise of it. His visit was followed by that of Mr. Reed from the University at Lincoln, Nebr., who came to inspect the building.

Sr. Rolanda's father, Mr. Bonnes, of Buffalo, N. Y. sent a gift of \$200.00 to be used to furnish the new community room in the new wing. An additional fund for the new building was presented by the students who put on a play and realized a neat sum. By April, work on the new wing was advancing rapidly and before Easter part of it could be occupied. Before the building was given over by the contractors, the architect inspected it and pronounced it very satisfactory.

The six weeks after Easter until Commencement, at the end of May, flew by rapidly, and on June 1, 13 young ladies went out from St. Mary's as graduates.

On June 4 retreat opened for the Sisters. Reverend Father Markus, O. F. M., was the retreat master. This was the last retreat for our dear old Mother Euphrasia. Although so old and infirm, she took part in most of the spiritual exercises of the community. Her thoughts and her whole being were occupied with

the things of eternity. A life of labor in the service of the Lord, a life of prayer and sincerest piety was recorded to her credit. Her beautiful life of intense love of God was now to end here but to be taken up again hereafter in the better world and to last for all eternity. Sr. Euphrasia Edelbrock had come to America during the German Kulturkampf or (struggle for culture) and was given charge of the diocesan Orphanage at Columbus, Ohio by Right Reverend Bishop Rosecrans. For thirty years she labored there as superior, and when the burden grew too heavy for her, owing to her broken down health, she still tried to make herself useful to the community by little insignificant deeds of love and charity. Countless stitches are required to make a stocking, but she sat patiently day after day, bent over her knitting, as long as her strength lasted, knitting new feet on stockings for Sisters who were too busy to do so for themselves. Sr. Euphrasia was an example of true virtue and the true religious spirit. She was deeply absorbed in God and turned every conversation back to Him. Every event and action was connected with His divine Providence. As she was extremely punctual in the exercises of the community, so was she also extra ordinarily exact in the observance of the Holy Rule and the Handbook.

Her memory became very weak, and it was often noticed that she was saying her Office a second time. If someone reminded her that she had already prayed it with the community, she would lay breviary aside, and take up her rosary. She spent hours before the Blessed Sacrament praying her rosary, cross prayer, or other prayers. Her eyes were fixed on the Tabernacle as one in ecstasy, for there dwelt her beloved whom she loved and honored with her entire being. Especially touching was her child-like humble obedience to the superior or her assistants. The cause of her death and the last weeks before her death were unusually pathetic. About a week after the close of the Sisters' retreat, she made a misstep, coming from a room one step higher than the corridor, and suffered a hard fall before an approaching Sister could reach her and save her. The doctor who was called immediately found that her hip was broken, and the days following were full of anguish for the patient sufferer. For three weeks in intense summer heat, she suffered untold agony, and on July 15, gave her beautiful soul back into the hands of her Creator. Father Cassidy spoke sincerely and feelingly about the dear departed soul. He said among other things, "Sr. Euphrasia was a hidden saint. She spent her last years in constant prayer—prayer for all of you and for me." She was little known outside the community, but known and loved all the more by her Divine Spouse Whom she had loved and served so many years.

One week after our then small community had laid Sr. Euphrasia to rest, Silver Jubilee bells rang for two of our I Sisters, Sr. Eleanor Schlarb and Sr. Herlindis Leinbarger. On July 25 they celebrated their Silver Jubilee of profession. Twenty-five little girls in white wearing silver wreathes, led the two jubilarians into the chapel for a solemn High Mass. Many friends and benefactors were present at the celebration.

Our community was small as six of our Sisters were attending Summer School. Sr. Dolores and Sr. Humiliata were at the Catholic University at Washington, D. C. Sr. Remigia and Sr. Roberta at Creighton University, Sr. Etheldreda at Canisius College, Buffalo for a special course in physics, and Sr. Josaphat at Loretta Heights, Denver. Although we did not have many changes in our community, a sacrifice had to be made. Sr. Olinda Tewilt was transferred to Holy Rosary Mission and Sr. Loyola Miller replaced her here. When the Summer School students returned, another change was made. Sr. Remigia was transferred to Alliance and Sr. Serafia Strot came here to take her place.

School opened on September 4. A few days later, Sr. Roberta received word to go to Havre, Montana. Sr. Marciena Strauss came from Milo and took over all the work which had been done by Sr. Roberta, so that all went along smoothly as if no change had occurred. Mother Justine's nameday was

celebrated as usual. The congratulations and display of gifts took place for the first time in the new community room.

On October 3 Msgr. Cassidy celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest. Although it was intended to be only a semi-public affair, it turned out to be very solemn and official through the presence of the new Bishop of Omaha, His Excellency Most Reverend F. J. Rummell. Our students presented a stole of brocade and embroidered in gold by Sr. Eleanor. In the afternoon, a play—an allegory—was given in honor of the occasion. The Bishop and many priests were present. The making up of a spiritual bouquet for Msgr. Cassidy, acted out by our tiny tots, created much merriment and filled the hall with peals of laughter.

During the last week of October, the solemn enthronement of the Sacred Heart was carried out in the assembly. Father Leahy, our chaplain, had charge of the ceremonies. A beautiful statue of Christ the King was used in the enthronement .

On October 25, a concert was given by the Austrian trio, the Hilger sisters. The first played violin, the second piano, and the third cello. Their music was excellent and won great applause.

November is a short month, and the ten or twelve days occupied with state examinations and Thanksgiving vacation can scarcely be counted as school days. To make matters worse, these last days have to be made up before Christmas vacation. Our boarders banded together and raised a fund sufficient to establish a "crib" at St. James' Orphanage, Omaha, for one of the babies there; that is, they sent enough money to provide all the necessities for one baby for one year.

The short weeks before Christmas are always overfilled with work. Our senior girls worked on the new lining for the tabernacle in church. The reception into the Sodality on September 8 took place as usual but with added solemnities and beauty. On December 21 the Christmas holidays began. A few boarders remained here. The health of the children during the year was good, with the exception of a few colds.

We now have 21 Sisters, _____ boarders, one hired girl and one hired man. Grateful to God for all His favors during the past year, also for the crosses and sorrows, we kiss the loving hand of our heavenly Father and place ourselves in all confidence under His all wise leadership for the new year.

1929 - "Losing Their Land"

At the beginning of school after Christmas, several new boarders were to be seen in the classrooms, and the New Year opened with an extraordinarily satisfied and joyful spirit among the pupils. On January 17, the members of the choir, under Sr. Humiliate's direction, gave an operetta depicting life in Holland. The audience responded to it with hearty applause.

At the beginning of the year, a Red Cross nurse was appointed for this District to look after the health of the school children. She spent the morning in the public school and the afternoon in St. Mary's. Unusually warm weather during the month of January brought an epidemic of undesirable sicknesses to O'Neill and vicinity. Several cases which appeared to be the first stage of smallpox were found even among our pupils, and the doctor ordered all to be vaccinated. Scarlet fever and diphtheria were also prevalent. One of our high school girls, a day pupil (Gertrude Enright) was a victim.

On March 7 retreat opened for the students and was conducted with great success by Reverend J. A. Weis, S. J. of Mankato, Minn.

On March 1, Mother Justine with the two superiors from the Missions, Mother Mathilda and Mother Ludgera, left for Stella Niagara to attend the retreat for superiors. On the same day, our basketball team left for Sioux City to participate in a tournament. They won the trophy for "good sportsmanship." Their outstanding qualities were said to be: manliness, politeness, kind and obliging ways towards others and good, clean sportsmanship. Our boys were not a little proud of the trophy—a large silver cup engraved the gift of his Excellency Bishop Heelan, of Sioux City.

After a mild winter and bright sunny days in March, we had an extraordinarily cold Easter season. A severe snow storm raged over the Nebraska prairie and called for great activity in the furnace room.

After Easter vacation, great preparations were begun for the meeting of the Nebraska Council of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae which was to open on May 5. Each room, each corridor, even each cell had to undergo a thorough over-hauling. It was not a question of entertaining lay people only, for members of the various religious congregations were well represented. The new wing seemed just made for them. The Sisters who occupied the cells generously vacated them, so that the whole upper and lower stories could be used by the visiting Sisters. Most of these were Dominicans as most of the others, for example, Sisters of Mercy, Benedictines, etc. were lodged with their own relatives and friends in the city. There were about 175 visitors, and some arrived already on Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4. The real program opened on Sunday morning with Solemn High Mass sung by St. Mary's Alumnae. Several solos like Ave Maria and Veni Jesu, sung by a quartet, made the occasion especially solemn. The following schools sent a delegation of Sisters and pupils:

St. Agnes Academy, Alliance

Sacred Heart Academy, Falls City

Immaculate Conception College and Academy, Hastings

Sacred Heart High School, Omaha

Duchesne College, Omaha

Cathedral High School, Omaha

St. Mary's College, Omaha

St. Berchmann's, Omaha

St. John's High School, Omaha

Assumption High School, Chadron

Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Spalding

Guardian Angel High School, West Point

St. Mary's Academy, O'Neill

Besides these, the following guests were present: Rt. Reverend Msgr. M. F. Cassidy, Reverend J. H. Ost diek, Supt. of Catholic Schools, Omaha, Reverend B. J. Leahy, O'Neill, Reverend A. s. Kluthe, Spencer, Reverend Mother Gertrude, O. S. B. , Sioux City, Mrs. Mary B. Finan, President of the I. F. C.

A., Chicago, Mrs. W. W. Jeffrey, Omaha, and Mrs. Arthur Mullen, Omaha. It is worthy of note to remark here that one of our graduates of the year received a prize, conferred during the business meetings, on the one who could best answer the question proposed by the I. F. C. A. The latter had a capital fund to be used for the education of members of religious orders, and the question revolved around this issue. Mary Conway answered the proposed question most satisfactorily and received the prize. This meeting proved a great success from every viewpoint, and countless remarks of appreciation and praise were bestowed upon our academy. This should be a consolation and a reward to those who were active here at the time and a strong incentive to those in the future working here to keep St. Mary's abreast in high ideals and up to the standard in every good way. "All for the master, whether success in our day or after years of trials and hard labor. With His help and under His protection, every good work must bring its- reward.

Anyone who has labored here knows that it is no slight undertaking to keep the standards up to present day requirements. It is mostly the children of farmers who are brought to us as boarders, and the aftermath of the World War makes it difficult for them to meet the amount required as tuition. The farmers invested heavily in machinery during the war to turn out great supplies, mortgaging their land in payment. How in the hard times when prices are very low and there are no markets, many are losing their land through taxes or foreclosure of mortgages. This lessens our source of income. More and more is being demanded from our teachers by the State Department; new features and changes are being introduced continually; and for this some extra funds are necessary. After this meeting was concluded, only four weeks remained until the close of school. An exhibit of school work drawings, paintings, and needlework, was on display for the meeting on May 5, and school closed May 31 with Commencement and the conferring of diplomas. For the first time in the history of St. Mary's, the Bishop was to preside at the Commencement and confer the honors. However, he was unable to come on May 31, so the affair was postponed till June 3. For the first time also Commencement took place in the parish church at 8:00 P.M. It was simple but truly religious occasion, most fitting for the close of a Catholic school. Bishop Rummell was appointed to the diocese of Omaha about a year and a half ago, his first appointment. He is a very fervent and zealous man.

Sr. Winifred Sweeney and Sr. Pauline Russ left immediately after the close of school for Spencer, a neighboring parish. The pastor, who has no parochial school, had begged for two Sisters to come there for two weeks to instruct his children and prepare them for their First Holy Communion about the middle of June. As soon as they returned, four Sisters prepared to leave on June 18 for Creighton University, Omaha. They were Sr. Winifred Sweeney, Sr. Etheldreda Bracken, Sr. Serafia Strot and Sr. Remigia Finneran who had arrived here from Alliance to join our three Sisters.

On July 7, Sr. Loyola Miller left us to help during the summer in the hospital at Havre, Montana. She did not return here after vacation, but was transferred to Columbus, Ohio. Sr. Ascensia Popp and Sr. Josaphat Grady went to the hospital in Alliance, the former for a slight operation, the latter for medical care.

Heavy storms here and in our vicinity did much damage by lightning which caused fires of light and heavy damages. Thanks to the fire department, the losses were kept at a minimum. Although our building is the highest in the neighborhood and stands on the highest part of the town, the lightning sought other points, and we ascribe this to the power of prayer and the blessed candles that were kept burning during the atoms .

This summer we enjoyed at various times, visitors from our other convents. This is always a great pleasure for us as we are situated so from any of our other foundations. Bishop Rummell remarked this

the first time he visited us. We trust God may soon give us another convent of our Sisters near enough to permit us to see each other occasionally—an O'Neill hospital, for example. Another one of our Sisters had to pack up her bundle and depart for another clime. This time it was our dear Sr. Juventia who was transferred, in August, to St. Rita's, Columbus.

The Sisters retreat was held August 10-17 and was given by Reverend F. Schulte, S.J. of Chicago. On August 18, Mother Justine left us, after a six years' term of successful labor. We were sorry to see her go as she had done all in her power to promote the welfare and the progress of St. Mary's. Many improvements in the school and convent will be constant reminders of her constant endeavors to progress.

Mother Alphonse Kampshoff arrived here on August 21. On August 28, Sr. Salome and Sr. Scholastics came to replace Sr. Loyola and Sr. Juventia.

The new school year opened on September 3 with 235 pupils—more than the school had ever registered, but we had hoped for at least ten more boarders. Everything seemed to be going on as usual, but man proposes and God disposes. On September 22, our dear Sr. Humiliata was stricken with a severe case of pneumonia, and succumbed to it on Sept. 30. By her death we lost one of our best teachers—a self-sacrificing, generous soul who would offer herself for the hardest and most unpleasant tasks, and spend countless hours untiringly, when it meant rendering an act of charity to others. Her great, heroic character shined so vividly in her last sickness. Sr. Humiliata was a convert, and no longer young, when she entered our congregation. God, alone, knows how many silent acts of resignation she was called on to make. They are all recorded in her book of life. May God reward her for her many generous sacrifices. R. I. P.

Sr. Antoinette, on her way to St. Francis mission, arrived here two days before Sr. Humiliata's death, Mother Gerard notified her to take up Sr. Humiliate's work, and when word reached Stella of the latter's death, Sr. Antoinette was appointed to do the work until the end of the year. Miss Roberta Arbuthnot, one of our Alumnae, was called on to take part of Sr. Humiliata's work. Miss Arbuthnot had received her degree at the University of Lincoln and was qualified to be a member of the staff of St. Mary's.

On October 6, the Holy Name Society held a great religious demonstration on the campus opposite our Academy. A large speakers' platform was erected and in front of it, the various Holy Name Societies from the surrounding towns and O'Neill, took their places. All wore the Holy Name badge, and it was a touching scene to see these stalwart men marching along and testifying to their faith in God. His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph Rummell, was present for the ceremonies.

There were several speakers, and as a close Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given, followed by the singing of "Holy God."

The feast of Christ the King was celebrated in our chapel. An act of consecration for all was made, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed. Members were received from the grades into the Angels' Sodality on the Feast of St. Raphael.

The month of the Poor Souls passed quietly and without much ado, except Education Week which opened on November 15. It was closed with a program in which Longfellow's "Hiawatha" was dramatized. Our boarders left on November 27 for a four days Thanksgiving vacation. On December 1 school reopened.

The Diamond Jubilee of the proclamation of the "Immaculate Conception" was celebrated in a special way. A contest was opened between the Grade School and the High School to see who could recite the most Hail Mary's. A program was started On Dec. 6 in which both Grades and High School pupils participated, and on the feast itself, the new members of the Sodality were received. Christmas was approaching, and great preparations -were being made for it. A nice Christmas program, put everyone—pupils and Sisters—in the right mood for it, and on December 20, our boarders left for home.

Christmas here passed quietly and happily, and with grateful hearts, we closed the year of 1929. It had been an eventful year, rich in great and beautiful deeds accomplished but not without trials and sorrows; however, these latter are conducive of our spiritual welfare.

Our fields and pastures this year have not been very good—scarcely any potatoes, but our garden provided well for the kitchen. We had many apples donated. Our cows furnished us plenty of milk during the year.

The personnel of St. Mary's is now: 21 Sisters, 63 boarders, (55 of them girls and 7 boys.) 1 hired man, 1 hired woman, 2 boys who attend school as boarders and care for the garden and stable.