

St. Mary's Academy Chronicles

1910-1919

1910 - "Novenas to St. Joseph"

Commencement took place on June 16 with eight graduates receiving their diplomas and state certificates. As soon as the pupils left for home our new building, so long planned, was begun. Already in May the farmers without compensation had begun the excavation, and on July 28 the first stone was laid. On August 18 Reverend M. F. Cassidy blessed and laid the corner stone with all possible ceremonies and solemnities.

School reopened on September 6 with 214 day pupils and 84 boarders present. Soon the number of boarders was increased to 95.

On October 19 another great celebration took place—the dedication of our new debt-free church built in Romanesque style. Three Bishops and 22 Priests attended the dedication. Most Reverend Richard Scannell, Bishop of Omaha, carried out the ceremonies. Most Reverend John J. Keane, Bishop of Cheyenne, Wyoming, a very able and pious missionary, surprised us with a very eloquent and impressive sermon. Most Reverend Bishop Galligan, of Sioux City, celebrated the Pontifical High Mass. It was a most solemn occasion. The entire cost of the church amounted to \$40,000, the last penny of which has been paid off by our small parish.

Thanks to our Lady of Perpetual Help and to St. Joseph, our new building progressed rapidly and well. The weather was so favorable that the building was under roof before winter arrived. Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph gave us special help in regard to our lack of fuel. For months we had waited for the arrival of our winter coal from Wyoming, but late in the fall word came that the miners were on a strike and the coal could not be delivered. Application was made to another company, but their mines, too, were closed. In our great need we made one storm novena after another, begged our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph to take Sisters and children under their all-powerful protection, to keep the cold weather away, as we could not get coal and besides, the men were making excavation for the new heating system next to the coal cellar, and the coal, if it did arrive, could not be put into the coal cellar on account of the heaps of earth in front of it. At last on December 4, the coal arrived, plenty of it, but it had to remain in the cars for two days, as the delivery could not get near the coal cellar. We prayed with great confidence, and God continued the beautiful spring weather, so that we were able to have all windows open. On December 6 the coal was delivered and the coal cellar filled. Scarcely was this accomplished at 5:00 P. M. when the wind turned, snow came and winter was on in full blast so that the furnace had to be heated. Within a half hour after the last delivery of coal this happened. The cold weather continued for a long time. Another time, we were short on funds for the building. We made a novena to St. Joseph, begging him to see that the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio should get an unexpected conation during our novena. Meanwhile, we applied to the Josephinum for a loan. On the seventh day, we received the glad news from the Reverend



President of the Josephinum that he would help us out, as he had unexpectedly received a donation of \$5,000. We had promised to have it published in honor of St. Joseph if he helped us. So we hastened to fulfill our promise. During this year four Sisters were transferred to other convents. Sr. Angelica and Sr. Patrick went to St. Ann's, Buffalo, Sr. Antona (Pfeffer) to California, and Sr. Salome to the novitiate at Stella Niagara. They were replaced by Sr. Annunciate from Columbus, Ohio, Sr. Etheldreda (Bracken) and Sr. Honora (O'Grady) from California, Sr. Louise and Sr. Afra from Stella Niagara.

1911 - "Death is Coming Soon"

The new school year opened with 95 boarders and 200 day pupils. Owing to the severity of the winter weather, work on the new building had to be temporarily abandoned, and Sisters and pupils had to accommodate themselves again to the cramped and congested conditions. This naturally brought many sacrifices and much self-denial. In addition to this, we had a very stormy spring which brought on much sickness from which we also had a severe visitation. 50 children were down with measles and ten with varioloid, a mild form of smallpox. We kept it a secret and Divine Providence favored us for our school of all in the surrounding country remained unclosed. On February 24 Gladys Sterling, a Protestant child of eight years, died here of pneumonia. Her mother and her aunts, all nurses, cared for her themselves. Four specialists were called in on the case, but the good God took her away to a better world. Much to our consolation she was baptized secretly before she died. She begged repeatedly for Holy Communion and always had a picture of the Last Supper in her possession.

The annual -retreat for the children was given Reverend P. Theiss, S. J. from March 26 to 30. It was crowned with great success. At its close, Frances and Laurene Louis were baptized and received into the Church. Both received their First Holy Communion.

On the 9th of April Loretta Sullivan entered the novitiate at Stella Niagara and was followed in July by Lillian Paull. On April 30, 115 children received their First Communion. All were zealous to meet the Holy Father's expectations, so the little children of seven of seven years, the beloved of the Lord, were carefully prepared to approach the Holy Table. The older girls received daily and the little ones several times during each week.

On May 1 we had a severe snow storm. From the 7th to the 14th of May the Passionist Fathers gave a Mission in our parish, and on May 19, 228 were confirmed. Most Reverend Bishop Keane, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, who came specially for this occasion, officiated. It just happened that eight of our little ones who were ill received their First Holy Communion from the hand of His Excellency at the close of his Mass in our chapel. When blessing them afterwards, he remarked, "These are the pets of Our Holy Father."

On June 15, school closed with the usual commencement and exhibition.

Then the work on the new building began again in great earnestness and we had a noisy, restless summer. Now we are all glad that the work is finished, the workers gone, and everything proceeds in its usual way.

On September 7, school reopened with 80 boarders and 200 day pupils. Soon the number of boarders reached 98. Thanks be to God, we are now able to provide ample room for the children.

On October 25, our dear Sister Bertranda passed to a better life. She had arrived here from Sacramento, Calif., in August and, as weeks passed, we prayed and hoped for signs of

improvement. However, she understood only too well how to conceal her pain and sufferings, and we were all surprised when she begged Mother, ten days before her death, to let her receive the Last Sacraments and everything necessary to insure her happy death. She felt that her end was near. She received all the consolations of Extreme Unction with the greatest devotion and was as grateful as though she had been restored to health. She never came again to the refectory. On Wednesday, October 25, she seemed so much better that she sat up on a chair nearly all day. About five P.M. she said, "Death is coming soon, but not yet. It will come like a thief in the night. It may last yet till November. Just as God wills, when He wills, and where He wills. His most Holy Will be praised." At the ringing of the Angelus, her condition changed suddenly and we called Father Cassidy who brought her Holy Communion once more. She opened her eyes which were beaming with heavenly bliss and then placed her hands on her heart to express her joy. Then Father Cassidy prayed the prayers for the dying, gave her general absolution, followed by the recitation of the rosary, etc. He then went out and we prayed the prayers for the dying in German and renewed the Vows. At the words Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, she nodded her head with a smile as much as to tell us how grateful she was for the grace to have made them. Then she tried to speak but could not. However, we guessed her intention of trying to beg pardon of all the Sisters. At 7:30 P. P.M. Father Cassidy came back. With a smile, she thanked him and said, "The Sisters can't wait till I die." He smiled and told us to go to supper as he would call us in time. Sister Bertranda was sitting up in bed, her head resting in Mother Leonie's arms. Until the very last, she had the strength to raise her hands and show her appreciation for the ejaculations that were being said, to kiss the crucifix, etc. Her last word was, "Jesus." She died peacefully while the priest was reciting the prayers in the presence of all the Sisters.

Christmas was celebrated in the most solemn manner possible. Our Christmas joy was increased by the presence of dear Mother Leonarda, who was on her visitation tour. As nearly all of the children had returned home for the Christmas holidays, the Sisters were free to enjoy her visit all the more. Those were days of grace which we cannot easily forget. Again we admired the wonderful care of our congregation, both spiritual and temporal, for each of her children sparing herself no sacrifice, however great, to promote the welfare of all. The pleasant recreations, the inspiring words of instruction, the kind words of encouragement to work zealously, must have aroused an increase of love for the dear Master and made the bond more firm between us and our beloved Superiors.

Several changes were made during the year. Sr. Afra, novice, was sent to Columbus, Ohio, and she was replaced by Sr. Xaveria of Lead, S. D.

1912 - "Traits of Character"

On January 6, 102 boarders and 160 day pupils returned from their Christmas holidays and took up their studies again with much zeal. The winter months were made pleasant for the children by giving little parties and music and entertainments every month. We were able this year to engage a very capable teacher for elocution and physical training. On February 2, a renowned pianist, a virtuoso, from Chicago, visited St. Mary's. He gave us a splendid concert during which he played the most difficult compositions of the Great Masters with finished technique. This proved a great incentive to spur the pupils on to the mastery of classical music.

On February 24, our dear Sister Benigna, Baumann, died a most edifying death. On March 3, the annual retreat of the children began. It was conducted by Reverend Smith, S.J. of St. Louis, Mo. and was attended by 130 zealous students. During the retreat, Clara Smithwick was received into the Church. She was fifteen years old.



1912: Ella Barrett, Teresa Cook, Katherine Loeb, Julia Howard, Mary Gallagher

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, was celebrated with great solemnities. Reverend Father Quinlan, S. J., of Creighton University, Omaha, preached for the occasion. In the evening, Reverend Father Cassidy surprised us by bringing his guest over here, and a hurried program for entertainment was arranged. The monthly programs of the winter came in handy for this occasion. Father Quinlan expressed his surprise at the musical ability shown by the pupils as also their modesty and firm traits of character, and was much pleased to learn some of the particulars about our congregation. On June 15, Commencement took place the same as in foregoing years. There were nine graduates. Each received a teachers' certificate. On the following day the first retreat for the Alumnae Association opened and was conducted by Reverend J. P. Conroy, S. J. 120 old pupils attended.

On July 8, death again knocked at the portals of St. Mary's and called away our dear Sr. Adelgonde, Ninehaus. She died a peaceful death after nine years of suffering from cancer. R.I.P.

In the month of August Mother Leonie left us to join three other Superiors on a trip to Germany for the election of Reverend Mother. On October 23 she returned and brought with her Sister Godeline, now Sr. Corona and Sr.



Alacoque from Stella Niagara. The ocean trip was most pleasant especially the return trip which was favorable in every particular. The voyage lasted seven days. The good Mothers and Sisters in Europe did everything in their power to make our visit a pleasant remembrance. The Sisters here were full of admiration at the beautiful and useful presents sent to them from Europe. We thank the good God for the great benefits, support, and knowledge derived from this visit, for our European Sisters, ourselves, and the pupils. The bond of love between us is thereby strengthened and made more firm.

During the octave of Christmas a former pupil, Lutia Barto, was received into the Church. During the year two Sisters were changed, Sr. Solano to Holy Rosary Mission and Sr. Amalia to Charleston W. Va. Their places were taken by Sr. Scholastica and Sr. Alacoque from Stella Niagara.

1913 - "Secular Education"

On January 4, the boarders returned from their Christmas vacation. The annual retreat for the children took place during Lent. Shortly after its close, a seventeen year old boarder, a young lady, was received into the Church and made her First Holy Communion on Holy Thursday. During this year, thirty five little children made their First Holy Communion. May 25, our dear Sr. Gregoria Philips passed away. R.I.P.



On June 18, school closed with Commencement and an exhibition of fancy work and art. Twenty young ladies received certificates from the State of Nebraska. On the morning after Commencement, Sr. Antoinette left for Stella Niagara and from there went on to Washington, D. C. for the purpose of pursuing higher studies at the Catholic University. Two other teachers attended a six weeks' summer session at Creighton University, Omaha, conducted by the Jesuits who took good care that the sisters would not be endangered by secular education. On Sundays, a spiritual conference was given for the Sisters.

On September 7, a fire broke out in our granary and for a while, it seemed as though the convent was doomed, but in the greatest need God's help is always nearest. Everyone came to our aid. On the following morning, the men of the city assembled and collected \$540.00 to cover the cost of erecting a new granary. Three ladies brought us fruit and sugar for canning. Others brought hay, and everyone showed the greatest sympathy in our loss. We are expecting a most blessed year for it has been signally marked by the cross. We had very many good children and an admirable spirit was prevalent.

On December 8, 35 young ladies were received into the Sodality of Our Lady. It was a glorious spectacle to see 80 young ladies, decked in white wearing veils marching into the parish church. They were singing the favorite hymns to Our Lady. It was so touching that the parishioners were moved to tears.

The dear Christ Child again brought us abundant blessings, and along with the spiritual ones we also enjoyed many material ones, furnished by the ever generous people of O'Neill. The ladies of the parish enclosed in the card of Christmas greetings a check for \$150.00 to cover the expense of a new fire escape required by state law. May the good God reward all our kind benefactors with abundant blessings!

During the year, Sr. Canisia was transferred to New Lexington, Ohio and replaced by Sr. Alverna. Sr. Scholastica went to St. Vincent's, Columbus, Ohio, to take the place of Sr. Eusebia who came here.



1914 - "Fresh, Pure Air"

On January 6, the boarders returned from the Christmas holidays. On St. Patrick's Day, the patron feast of the parish, our young ladies staged the play, "St. Mary Magdalene," which edified and inspired the large audience. On March 28, the annual retreat began for the children and was given by a Jesuit father. All showed great zeal during it. On May 5, Pentecost Sunday, 25 of our little ones had the great grace to receive Our Lord for the first time into their young and innocent hearts. It was most touching to see each of the little six and seven year olds approaching the Holy Table between father and mother and receiving Our dear Lord with such tender devotion.

On June 1, dear Mother Henrietta came to us from Alliance for a rest and convalescence after a long siege of sickness. In the fresh pure air of this climate, she rested most of the day, and one could see steady improvement, and it was with renewed strength and health that she left us on September 1, to return home. We were all happy to see her so strong and well again.

On June 19, all our graduates, after passing the required state examinations very creditably, received their teachers' certificates. The next day one of them in company with two other postulants left for the novitiate at Stella Niagara. The other ten all obtained positions as teachers in the rural schools near O'Neill and began their work on September 7. The inspector of schools visited them after a few weeks and expressed himself as well pleased with the work they were accomplishing. On June 20, three teachers went to Creighton

University in Omaha for advanced studies, in accord with the requirements of today. Also in June, our Directress, Sr. Antoinette, returned to Washington. D. C. where she had received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the Catholic University. In October she then returned to Washington to work for her Master of Arts which she hopes to obtain by February.



In July Sr. Ita of New Lexington, who was ill, came here to get the benefit of the fresh air. She improved rapidly and left us in November. On August 17, Sr. Pauline Russ left us to become superior of St. Mary's Convent, Cowlitz, Wash., and on August 31, Sr. Ludmilla came to help us out.

1915 - "The Best That is in You."

The year opened propitiously for St. Mary's and now, at the close of the year, as we look back over the course of events, our hearts are filled naturally with deepest gratitude to the loving care of Divine Providence. At the beginning of the year, the number of boarders was 85 and that of day pupils 255.

One of the most important events of the early part of the year was the annual retreat for the high school pupils. It was conducted by Reverend J. B. Theiss, S. J. The Sodality presented a statue of Our Blessed Lady and it was solemnly erected at the close of the retreat. In April one of our sodalists in company with Mother Leonie left for Stella Niagara where the former entered the novitiate.



Sister Antoinette and Sister
Levina

The patronal feast of the parish St. Patrick's Day had a unique program. Miss Loretta DeLone, a guest at the Academy, and a renowned harpist, entertained the parishioners in the afternoon on St. Patrick's Day with selections on the favorite musical instrument of Ireland, the harp.

The annual May procession and crowning of Our Blessed Lady was beautiful and inspiring. It was a fitting close to the May devotion which the pupils of the Academy hold annually. On the same occasion, the new officers of the Sodality were installed. At the beginning of June, 54 tots received their First Holy Communion. The day on which they received was exceptionally bright and beautiful, in keeping with the great and solemn occasion.

On Friday before Pentecost, we had the great joy to welcome the Most Reverend Bishop Scannell. He celebrated Holy Mass in our chapel and the Sisters and children received Holy Communion from his

hand. In the afternoon he entertained Sisters and children in the most kind and fatherly manner. On Pentecost he administered the holy sacrament of Confirmation to over two hundred people. It was an exceptional grace to receive this holy sacrament on Pentecost.

In June school closed the 15th Commencement and the completion of fifteen years of our work in O'Neill. On this occasion twenty-two young ladies received their diplomas. The address was delivered by Reverend Father Quinlan, S. J. of Creighton University. He spoke of the importance of Catholic education and closed with these beautiful words, "Give to the world the best that is in you and the best will come back to you."

A special feature of the year's events is the fact that on the same day that our school closed, June 17, two of our Sisters received their degrees, M. A. from the Catholic University at Washington, D. C. Sr. Antoinette, the Directress of our Academy, was one of them. She completed her studies at the University in January and returned to St. Mary's at the beginning of February. Her theme, entitled "A Educational Anthology" from the writings of St. Chrysostom, appeared in March, April, and May numbers of the Catholic Educational Review. Immediately after the close of school, Mother Leonie and five Sisters went to Creighton University for the Summer Session to pursue higher studies. They rented a small furnished house near St. John's Church, so that they were able to hear several Masses and receive Communion daily. The pastor of the church considered it an honor to help the Sisters in every way. He appointed a special time for them to have Holy Hour and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In all truth, everything possible was done for mind and soul. When the Sisters returned, from Summer School we had our annual retreat.

On August 12, Mother Leonie celebrated her Silver Jubilee and as that was the close of the retreat, the Sisters enjoyed a special blessing in being able to renew their vows at the same time with Mother Leonie. Former students and the members of the Alumnae gave Mother a beautiful present. Otherwise the celebration was plain and simple, but a day of real joy for everyone. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December, eight new candidates were received into the Sodality. On August 18, Sister Alice was transferred to Columbus, Ohio, and was replaced by Sr. Henrica.

1916 - "Cow, Horse, and Hogs"

When we glance back over the year of 1916, we are bound to sing with joyful hearts a grateful Te Deum for the many benefits and blessings of God that came our way during it. It was a year of real blessings for St. Mary's. The health of both Sisters and children was very good.

On January 4 the children returned from Christmas vacation. 85 boarders and 260 day pupils were present. On April 13, the annual retreat of the pupils opened and was conducted by Rev. Father Theiss, S. J. It was again blessed with abundant fruit. On Pentecost 45 little ones received their First Holy Communion. Nothing was spared to make the occasion as grand and solemn as possible. The parents of these little tots, obedient to the call of their pastor, also approached the Holy Table and received with them. The May procession in honor of our Blessed Lady was solemn and impressive. New banners were carried by the children for this occasion.

On June 16, Commencement took place. Eighteen young ladies received school diplomas and teachers' certificates from the state.

On June 19, seven Sisters went to Omaha to continue higher studies at the Creighton Summer Session. Sr. Dolores and Sr. Cherubim from New Lexington, Sr. Claver from Columbus, Sr. Cyrilla and Sr.

Kiriam from Stella Niagara, Sr. Justine and Sr. Stanislaus from Uniontown, and Sr. Claudia from Buffalo were also there. The intense summer heat gave them plenty to suffer. On July 30 they were delighted to have dear Mother Leonarda as their guest. She remained one day with them and held visitation. On August 3, the Sisters returned to Omaha and after a few days of rest and recreation began the annual retreat. It was a relief, they said, to be able to be alone with Our Lord in prayer. During these days the good God sent us a refreshing rain. Sr. Liguori from New Lexington spent vacation here to get a much needed rest. Sr. Honoria, at the close of summer school, received her degree of Bachelor of Science. She was transferred to Alliance and Sr. Remegia came here for the eighth grade. Sr. Annunciata took charge of the tenth grade. In October Sr. Blandine was transferred to St. Peter's, Columbus, and Sr. Amanda came here from Minot, N. D.

On November 2, an illustrated lecture about the life of the Little Flower was given in the opera house by two students of Creighton University. The dear Saint was evidently much pleased with this for she showered her devotees abundantly with roses. Almost daily during November we received generous gifts. The K. of C., the ladies, and children tried to outdo one another. We received \$1200 in cash, flour, a cow, a horse, two or three hogs, fruit, etc., etc. On December 13, Mother Leonie and Sr. Antoinette were present at the dedication of the new hospital in Alliance. It was a great joy to realize the progress made there, for only nine years previous, the foundation had been made and we gave Sr. Geralda to them as one of the foundation stones. The trip to Alliance is a very round about and unpleasant one, but the pleasure of the short visit and the sisterly love shown more than made up for the unpleasantness of the trip. On the return trip, there was a delay at Crawford of 24 hours, and the good pastor, Reverend Father Moser, offered to take them in his auto to Chadron. That was a great act of charity, for it was already dark and the road was bad. It seemed God wanted to teach us a good lesson—to pray much and often for the poor priests of the West.

On December 21, our new Archbishop Harty arrived in Omaha from the Philippine Islands and was solemnly installed. Sr. Antoinette and Sr. Annunciata attended the ceremonies. His predecessor, Most Reverend Bishop Scannell, D. D., had departed this life on January 8, 1916. He was ill only eight days of La Grippe. We have remembered him daily at the Consecration of the Mass and will always pray at Holy Hour for the repose of his soul. He was always a real father to us and to him we owe the privilege of having Exposition at Holy Hour. R. I. P.

During this year, our dear old Sister Euphrasia came to us. It was after the Mission at St. Francis was burned in January that she and Sr. Norberta came to us. The latter returned to the Mission after it was partly rebuilt. However, Sr. Euphrasia remained here and prayed much for us; and for the congregation. She is in her 75th year, an example for the younger Sisters, so grateful for the least kind act.

1917 - "War against Germany"

The year of 1917, the most important in the history of our country since the Civil War of 1861 to 1865 was a blessed one for St. Mary's both spiritually and materially. For these as also for many graces of the past and for those which Divine Providence may still have in store for us we are deeply grateful.

At the opening of school we had 85 boarders and 240 day pupils, a slight increase over last year. A Protestant girl from Omaha, Helen Borsheim, eighteen years of age, daughter of a Catholic mother, was baptized while at home during the holidays and came back to us as a Catholic girl. This was a great joy for both Sisters and children.

The next event of importance was the annual retreat of the children from January 29 to February 2, conducted by Reverend M. F. McNulty, S. J. of Chicago, a famous missionary of the Missouri Province. About one hundred pupils took part in the retreat and edified everyone by their recollection and devotion. Besides the above mentioned students, the following were baptized and received their first Holy Communion: on January 1, Maude Forsberg, who was married to a former pupil of St. Mary's; on February 9, Miss Nellie Clyde, who had been at St. Mary's for five years and all during that time had nourished the great desire to become a Catholic, but was forced to wait, owing to an opposition from her sister who supported her until she had obtained her teachers' certificate; on April first, Miss Margaret Helen Thropmartin, who was married later to one of the young men of the parish.

On February 11, a terrific wind storm tore a great number of slates from the roof of the new building, and the broken particles crashed into a considerable number of window panes. The insurance company compensated us for the entire loss. The words of Holy Scripture, "God lessened the winds for the shorn lamb" fitted well in our own case, for the wind ceased until there was time to repair the damage. In May a number of our innocent little ones approached the Holy Table for the first time and received the Bread of Life into their pure young hearts. On Good Friday, the United States declared war against Germany. It was a painful thrust for us, as it was the same day on which our dear Lord was crucified.

On June 14, school closed with the usual Commencement exercises. Eleven Young Ladies received their Teachers' certificate, a gold monogramed trophy, the Diploma of the Academy and a card of admittance to the State University of Nebraska.

The program given in the evening in the K. of C. Hall received great applause and approbation from the audience which was made up mostly of parents and relatives of the graduates. Scarcely were the days of these important and responsible doings over when seven of our Sisters went to the Summer School of the Jesuits in Omaha. There were 24 of our Sisters there from our various convents. After four years of home and Summer School study, the following Sisters completed their courses and received their degrees: Sr. Annunciata, B. A., O'Neill; Sr. M. Cherubim, B. A., New Lexington; Sr. M. Etheldreda, B. S., O'Neill; and Sr. Dolores, B. A., New Lexington. From August 8 to the 15 the Sisters annual retreat was held. On September 10 our school reopened. The following Sisters were transferred: Sr. Ludmilla to St. Ann's, Buffalo; Sr. Alacoque to Los Angeles; Sr. Amanda to Denver. They were replaced by: Sr. Dolores from New Lexington; Sr. Felicia from Stella Niagara, and Sr. Jolenta from St. Ann's, Buffalo. Sr. Immaculata came to us from the hospital in Alliance during Christmas vacation to replace Sr. Xaveria in the classroom, as the latter was ill and unable to remain at her post.

An extraordinary event was the visit of our Most Reverend Archbishop Harty of Omaha on October 28. He was touched and much impressed by the hearty welcome he received from the parish and from our student body. The latter presented a bouquet which contained \$50.00 for his new cathedral. He was surprised to find the pupils here in this "Western town receiving such a thorough and cultured education. 91 children received the holy sacrament of Confirmation. In spite of hard times, the people of our parish are very generous. The church collection for his Excellency amounted to about a thousand dollars. In all, they have given six thousand dollars for the new cathedral.

On November 28 we had the great pleasure of hearing Mr. C. S. Griffith, a master of Shakespearian works, who presented the "Merchant of Venice" and "Macbeth". All who heard him will long remember the splendid lessons he drew from both.

On December 31, we had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day and monthly retreat. The day closed with Benediction and a solemn Te Deum in thanks to God for His loving care and Providence during the past year. Again the motto of dear Mother Magdalen proved true—"God will provide."

1918 - "Black Flu and Armistice"

On January 8 our students took up their studies again with renewed vigor. There were 80 boarders and 160 day pupils. After Vespers on the eve of the Purification our beloved Sr. M. Immaculata Wilman died a most edifying death. She had recently come to O'Neill to be restored to health. R.I.P.

From the third to the seventh of February retreat was held for the students and former pupils. It was conducted by Reverend Father Megayney, S. J. All expressed themselves as highly satisfied with it.

In the beginning of April, Mother Leonarda arrived for visitation. Six years had elapsed since her last visit and everyone was looking forward to a renewal with great expectation.

The graduates of this year made the city people happy by presenting the drama, "Jeanne d'Arc." It was taken from the writings of Msgr. Hugh Benson and drew great applause from the audience. Thirty little ones had the great happiness of approaching the Holy Table for the first time. It is most edifying to see the pupils, large and small, receiving Holy Communion daily.

Commencement was held on June 13, and 18 young ladies who had passed the teachers' examinations received their diplomas and certificates. Immediately after the close, trunks and suit cases were packed with the most necessary paraphernalia, and on June 19, 24 of our Sisters from various convents had assembled in Omaha to attend the Summer Session at Creighton. Seven of them received degrees, B. A. and B. S.—Sr. Miriam, Sr. Justine, Sr. Remegia, Mother Leonie, Sr. Winifred, Sr. Alacoque, and Sr. Ludmilla. When they returned to O'Neill retreat was given for the Sisters by Reverend Father Betten, S. J.

In September school reopened with 75 boarders. Death visited us again and took our dear Sister Xaveria Kertz on September 24. She had endured a long hard siege of suffering. R. I. P.

Owing to the long years of the World War and transportation of soldier to and from it, also wounded soldiers, Spanish Influenza was carried to this country and the epidemic spread rapidly. It raged at first in the coast cities, forts and barracks of the soldiers, and finally in all the cities and villages of the land. Churches, schools, theatres, and other public places were closed, also here in O'Neill. 24 of our day pupils became boarders and we continued our school for them. On Sundays we had adoration of the Bl. Sacrament all day, Thursdays, Holy Hour; hence, there was no vacation for the children nor the Sisters and the same program was continued through what should have been our Christmas vacation. Sacrifices had to be made on both sides. Visits were not permitted nor asked for. Thanks to the goodness of God and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Patroness of our house, and also to St. Roch, we were wonderfully preserved from the Black Flu as it is called here. Our city, too, had only, a few cases. More than a dozen times we sang our grateful Te Deum. On November 11 we rejoiced to hear the long desired news which was flashed over the length and breadth of our country that an Armistice had been signed, the end of the terrible World War. Deo Gratias.

On December 8 candidates were received into the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin. The beautiful feast of Christmas was celebrated most solemnly. On Christmas Eve, the pupils received their presents for no one was permitted to go home, owing to the fact that the epidemic was still prevalent in many towns

and localities. They were perfectly resigned and satisfied and even remarked that they had never had such a happy Christmas celebration in all their lives. The following Sisters were transferred during the year: Sr. Jolenta, Sr. Frederick, and Sr. Flora and were replaced by Sr. Malenia, Sr. Adelaide, and Sr. Martina. Sr. Adelaide had to leave us on December 31.

At St. Vincent's, Columbus, two Sisters had died of flu and Sr. Adelaide was called by telegraph to replace one of them, so sacrifices had to be made on both sides.

1919 - "Influenza Raged"

After three months of a suspended school session, classes were again resumed for all pupils on January 6. Although the influenza or flu raged in our vicinity, we had been able to continue school for the boarders, and we were graciously spared the terrible ravages of this awful disease.

On March second the annual retreat for the students opened under the direction of Reverend Charles A. Meehan, S. J. of Chicago. On Wednesday after Easter, a bazaar was held in our gymnasium, which, contrary to our expectations, proved a great success.

On June 2, 16 graduates received their diplomas and certificates and immediately after that Summer school was opened here for thirty eight Sisters from the various states. They all received Sisters' certificates and are entitled to teach unmolested in any state.

After twelve years of successful labor here, Mother Leonie, on August 11 left us to become Superior at New Lexington. Mother Mathilde, who had been Superior at Sacred Heart, Columbus, replaced her here. Other Sisters transferred were: Sr. Henrica to New Lexington, Sr. Levine and Sr. Bona to Stella Niagara, and Sr. Alverna to Sacramento, Calif. They were replaced by Sr. Adele of New Lexington, Sr. Brigitta of Buffalo and Sr. Loyola from Alliance. There was no one to take Sr. Alverna's place, so Miss Katherine Hooper was engaged to take full charge of a class.

Other lay teachers were engaged - Miss F. Grenier as violin teacher, Miss Ann O'Shea as dramatic teacher, and Miss Brabara Metz as dressmaker. A greater number of pupils than ever before was received this year. On September 9 there were 100 boarders and several had to be refused for lack of room. Mrs. C. E. Griffith, on December 2, gave two splendid renditions of Shakespeare's plays.

Political organizations here in the west were very stubborn. Mines were closed and for two months no coal was delivered. For this reason we were obliged to begin our Christmas holidays on Dec. 12.