

**“The Early Presidents of Saint Mary’s College,  
1844 - 1931”**

**by  
Sister Kathryn Callahan, CSC**

**Presented at the  
2010 Conference on the  
History of the Congregations of Holy Cross**

**June 3 - 6, 2010  
Holy Cross College  
Notre Dame Indiana**

**(All rights reserved)**

**[1] The Early Years at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana from 1844 - 1931**

**[2] Please Note, this presentation is intended for private use only. the images outlined in red have been taken from the world wide web for illustrative purposes only. Some of these images "may be subject to copyright." All other images are the property of the Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives.**

**[3 & 4]** Eleven Sisters of the Holy Cross, who, in the early years, were responsible for the educational program at Saint Mary's will be considered in this presentation. ***(These sisters are listed in order on the handout)*** **[5]** Because of the influence of Mother Angela Gillespie and Mother Pauline O'Neill these two sisters will be presented in greater detail .

**[6]** The Sisters of the Holy Cross were founded by Reverend Basil Moreau in August 1841 in Le Mans, France. **[7]** Their original work was to provide ancillary services at a school that had been established by Father Moreau.

The original work of the sisters began to change the very day after the first four sisters received the habit, for on August 5 **[8]** Rev. Edward Sorin and six Brothers of Holy Cross left Le Mans for Indiana **[9]** where the bishop of Vincennes had requested brothers to educate the boys of his diocese. **[10]** After some months in southern Indiana, these men moved north in November 1842 and settled on land in the northern part of the State. **[11]** Here Sorin immediately made plans to establish a great American Catholic university, which he named Notre Dame du Lac. Sorin wrote asking for sisters and told Moreau that when they came they should also be "prepared to open schools."

**[12]** The first four sisters arrived in July 1843. Very soon three young women from the surrounding countryside asked to join them, but there was no room. Because the bishop of Vincennes refused permission for them to establish a novitiate in his diocese, **[13]** Sorin found property across the state line in the river town of Bertrand, Michigan

and received permission from the bishop of Detroit to establish a novitiate for the sisters there. The sisters arrived in Bertrand July 1844.

**[14]** From 1844 to 1849 there were four separate sisters who were in charge, and things weren't very well organized. The sister who was in charge of the educational efforts was the one who was in charge of other duties, such as Mistress of Novices, Assistant Superior, Superior, etc .

**[15]** First there was Sister Heart of Jesus who was only 18 years old when she came from France in May of 1843. **[16]** Father Sorin tutored her in English along the way. Her assignment was Mistress of Novices. **[17]** Sister Heart of Jesus was requested by the people of Bertrand and encouraged by Father Sorin to begin instruction, religious and otherwise, of the local children almost as soon as she arrived in Bertrand. Within a few weeks 3 or 4 orphan girls had somehow found their way to the Bertrand house, and that number was destined to increase.

**[18]** Sister Heart of Jesus' assignment in Bertrand lasted for only one year, when she was sent to Pokagon, Michigan. The reason for this is not clear, but we read in the council minutes that **[19]** "Sister Heart of Jesus in disgrace was sent to Pokagon until her transfer to Canada could be arranged." After some years in Canada she went to New Orleans from where, **[20]** "sad to say" says Mother Compassion "she left the community."

---

**[21]** The next sister in charge was Sister Mary of the Five Wounds, who came from France in October 1844. **[22]** She was assigned as superior and mistress of novices from 1845-47. It's difficult to know how much she could have accomplished, because she was away for most of that time. **[23]** In Spring of 1845 she was sent to France by Father Sorin to beg for money and to seek out more subjects. But Father Moreau did not permit the begging and reprimanded Sister Five Wounds for coming to France without his permission. He kept her in France for fifteen months, thus weakening rather than strengthening the American mission. It wasn't until August of 1846 that Father

Sorin traveled back from France bringing with him the long missing superior. Her assignment from 1845-47 was approximately 24 months -- 15 of which were spent in France!

Up until this incident in France Sister Mary of the Five Wounds seemed to be in good standing. **[24]** However, a few months after her return to America her assignments kept her moving from Lebanon, Kentucky to New Orleans to New York in spite of her pleas to be allowed to return to Notre Dame. **[25]** She was very successful as directress of the school in New Orleans and then at the industrial school in New York City.

---

**[26]** In 1846, Sister Mary of the Cenacle came from France to America at 36 years of age. She was destined to play an important, if brief part in the new community. Sister Cenacle's executive ability and religious spirit commended themselves to Father Sorin, and in 1847 she was appointed as Mother Superior, in which capacity she won and kept the respect and love of all, and administered the affairs of the community with energy and discretion.

**[27]** Under Mother M. Cenacles energetic government, good order and discipline were established in the Bertrand house, which had suffered much during the absence of the superior in France. **[28]** In February 1848, Mother M. Cenacle, who had been ill for some time was sent to Fort Wayne for treatment. Unfortunately this was not effective and she died there in April 1848. Father Sorin was staggered by her death, and it was almost a year later before a new superior arrived from Canada. The problem of a permanent superior was a serious one. At first Father Sorin tried to borrow one from the Sisters of Providence, but they didn't have anyone to give to him. **[29]** The saintly Mother Guerin, American foundress of the Sisters of Providence, was making an official Visitation in Madison, Indiana, when Mother Cenacle died.... Hearing of this Mother Theodore at Father Sorin's invitation visited Notre Dame and Bertrand to offer her condolences to the afflicted Sisters. She remained a week and noted with pleasure and surprise the growth of the communities and the extensive improvements made by Father Sorin.

---

**[30]** During the ensuing months of disorganization and turmoil, there is little written about Sister Euphrasia , who apparently tried to fill in the gaps!. **[31]** She was teacher of arithmetic in France prior to coming to America. There is no record as to when she came or how she arrived in Bertrand, but she was apparently a secular teacher at Bertrand prior to entering the congregation and receiving the habit at Bertrand in August 1849 at 30 years of age. The council minutes of 1850 state that she was “dismissed for having created discord among the postulants.” **[32]** Her personal record indicates that she was sent to New Orleans in 1850 to teach French. There is nothing in the record of what happened to her after that.

---

**[33]** Finally after five years of constant change, the Academy realized some stability in the appointment of Mother Mary of the Savior (appropriately named), who served as head of the Academy for the next five years (1849-54). **[34]** She was born in France and entered the Congregation there in 1846, when she was 30 years of age. In 1847 she was assigned as superior at the school in Canada where she saw the beginnings of a successful school. In 1849, following the death of Mother Cenacle, the sisters in Bertrand asked for Mother Savior for their Superior. The permission was granted, and **[35]** Father Sorin brought Mother Savior to Bertrand to be superior. **[36]** During her five years as superior there were improvements made in the house and school. The educational advancement of the Sisters was insisted upon. **[37]** She herself trained the sisters in the teaching of religion and scripture, and taught them flower-making. She is remembered as a “noble woman in every sense of the word; an educated lady; just and straight forward in her dealings.” The novitiate increased under her and the academy flourished. The school girls began to wear uniforms; and like the novices, the students followed a no nonsense schedule.

As the academy grew, Mother Savior tried to make sure the quality of the teaching kept up with it. **[38]** For example, two sisters were sent to study arithmetic at Notre Dame becoming the first of an uncounted multitude of Holy Cross Sisters to pursue higher learning there; **[39]** two other sisters were sent to study music and drawing with the Sisters of Loretto in Loretto, Kentucky. These last two accomplishments quickly

became a necessity on the frontier. Pioneers felt they were not so far removed from civilization if their women had some artistic training.

**[40]** Some important external factors were helpful in furthering the growth of Saint Mary's, namely in 1849 a daily line of stages running from Niles to South Bend and passing through Bertrand, formed the connection between the Michigan Central and Southern Railroads, and made access to the Academy easy from all parts of the country. **[41]** Two years later the Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan Railroad completed its line through South Bend to Chicago. This brought immediate increase in enrollment to both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Academy.

**[42]** After her term of office was completed, and as soon as she could be replaced Mother Savior was called back to France. Because of the difficulty finding suitable superiors to succeed her and Mother Cenacle, **[43]** she had the thirty days prayer to Our Lady recited publicly for vocations, especially spiritually minded American girls who would be capable of governing the community. **[44]** Shortly thereafter, Eliza Gillespie (Mother M. Angela) responded to the call.

---

**[45]** Eliza Gillespie, who became Mother Angela, was born in Lancaster, Ohio in 1824. She was a very precocious child, who taught herself to read when not yet four years old. Her early education was at a select school in Brownsville, Ohio, followed by several years at the Dominican Sisters School, Somerset, Ohio. Her high school years were spent at the Visitation Sisters Academy in Washington, D.C. from which she graduated with high honors in 1842.

**[46]** While at Visitation she was eager to acquire not only knowledge in the subjects taught there, but also an appreciation of fine arts and she missed no opportunity to attend opera and to visit the galleries. Also, interested in the workings of Government, she liked to attend Congress and listen to Senatorial debates.

**[47]** She was reared in a political and intellectual atmosphere in Ohio and Pennsylvania. There were professional people on both sides of the family. **[48]** U.S. Senator Thomas



Ewing was her uncle, [49] and his daughter Ellen Ewing Sherman, wife of Civil War General, William T. Sherman, was her cousin and very dear friend. [50] She was also a life-long friend of another cousin, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State James Gillespie Blaine.

[51] After high school and prior to joining the Sisters of the Holy Cross Eliza spent eleven years in various social works such as visiting the elderly and infirm, fund-raising to help alleviate the suffering of the Irish in their homeland, starting a school for young children in the parish. Before entering the Sisters of the Holy Cross, her final year was spent as a teacher at St. Mary's Seminary, an Episcopal school in Maryland, where she added innovative teaching methods and many extra-curricular activities. After a year of teaching there she was so successful that she was offered the principalship to induce her to remain.

[52] In 1853 Eliza applied for admission to the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and was accepted by Father Sorin, who facilitated her admission. [53] Father Sorin sent her to Caen, France for her initial formation under the guidance of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. [54] She returned to the States, traveling with Father Sorin. During the homeward voyage, Father Sorin unfolded to Sister Angela all his plans for the future and drew up with her a program of studies for academies, parish schools, orphanages, and industrial schools. They devoted much consideration to the subject of fine arts.

[55] In 1854 Sister Angela was appointed Directress of Saint Mary's Academy. In the early years, the Academy was set upon a firm academic foundation by Sister Angela, who directed its progress from her first assignment there until her death thirty-four years later. She was either directly involved in her capacity as Directress of the Academy, or indirectly in her capacity as provincial superior or mother superior.

[56] In her work as provincial superior she traveled extensively throughout the United States coordinating the work of the various educational and health care institutions of the Congregation in many states, namely, California, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana,

7

Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin. As you can imagine, traveling in the 1800s was slow and tedious.

**[57]** Administrative business necessitated several voyages to Le Mans, France, She also, traveled to Ireland, and Luxembourg seeking candidates interested in joining Holy Cross in the United States.

Although community affairs kept her journeying from one end of the States to the other, Mother Angela never forgot that she was the Directress of Studies as well as provincial superior of the Indiana Province. She had a holy ambition to see the Sisters of the Holy Cross in the vanguard of education.

**[58]** Mother's accomplishments during her community life indicate the scope of her interests and abilities. She founded numerous institutions including schools, academies, and hospitals. **[59]** During the Civil War she directed nursing services at four military hospitals in the border states. **[60]** She was the author of the *Excelsior* and **[61]** the Metropolitan series of readers, and the **[62]** editor of the *Ave Maria*, a weekly magazine published at Notre Dame.

**[63]** On becoming better acquainted with the work of the Academy, Mother Angela discussed with Father Sorin the fact that despite increased enrollment, the devoted work of the sisters, and Father Sorin's efforts, much of their endeavor was futile. **[64]** The village was not growing, the railroads not attracting the industries hoped for; the distance from Notre Dame was too far for cooperation between the two schools. They realized that other plans must be made since those based on earlier and other circumstances were no longer sufficient for academic survival. **[65]** It was decided that the summer of 1855 would mark the last year at Bertrand.

**[66]** In late 1854, the orphans and other dependents were transferred from Bertrand to Mishawaka. **[67]** The following May, they and their house were moved to the new site at Saint Mary's to become part of the school there. During the summer of 1855,



buildings were moved from Bertrand to be ready for students in the fall. Only one new building was erected. It afforded room for sixty resident students and thirty sisters.

**[68]** The leading citizens of South Bend vied with each other in doing them friendly favors. **[69]** Judge Thomas S. Stanfield generously gave his services in the process of having the institution incorporated under the laws of Indiana.

**[70]** Several buildings at Saint Mary's for the Academy and sisters were constructed under the influence of Mother Angela and other sisters responsible for administration from 1855- 1887. They included **[71]** the Chapel of Loreto (1859) - currently the oldest building on campus; **[72]** Bertrand Hall (1862) which was the original Academy; **[73]** Lourdes Hall (1872) --originally called "the long building) - a multipurpose building for use by the Academy and the sisters; and **[74]** the Church of Loretto (1885).

**[75]** The administration was not content with buildings. Landscaping the grounds kept pace with the tradition of maintaining a park-like campus to inspire the students and to lend cultural atmosphere to educational facilities.

**[76]** Almost to the last Mother Angela kept indomitably at her post. Then with the coming of the New Year, 1887, she took to her bed; not indeed that her illness seemed grave, but she was very tired, she said. She was sixty-three years old on her birthday, February 21. Weeks went by and she grew more tired as they passed.

**[77]** She died March 4, 1887.

Her readiness to see and promptly meet the necessities of the moment, her unerring insight and appreciation of character, her quick expansive intellect soon made her popular in the educational world and a power for the advancement of Christian culture...

---

**[78]** Between Mother M. Angela and Mother M. Pauline (O'Neill) -- a total of 26 years, there were four directresses of Saint Mary's. These included Sisters M. Eusebia,

Annunciata, Lucretia , and Perpetua. Each brought her own unique gifts to the growth of the academy.

---

**[79]** Mother Eusebia was born in Ontario Canada in 1830 and entered the Congregation in 1856. Prior to receiving her assignment as Prefect of Studies and Directress of Saint Mary's Academy, **[80]** she had been a teacher in several of our academies, served in the military during the Civil War, and served for several years as a member of the General Council of the congregation.

Mother Eusebia's rare gifts were recognized at once, and her power as a teacher was evident from the first. **[81]** She was a woman of culture, accomplished, tactful, full of resources, deeply impressed with the need of a solid, religious training for young women. **[82]** She was a true educator and the influence of her beautiful personality, her forceful character, no less than her splendid mental qualifications, fitted her in a special manner for her work. She was well versed in mathematics, science and languages

Even though her tenure at Saint Mary's was only five years, her influence was felt. **[83]** She died at the age of forty-two years in 1872 after an illness of only 24 hours. Her sudden death was a shock to the community. She worked up until the last day. Three days after her death, **[84]** the council met on October 11, 1872 to appoint a replacement. The votes of the assembly were unanimously cast for Sister M. Annunciata."

---

**[85]** Mother Annunciata served as head of Saint Mary's for two terms and a total of 14 years. **[86]** She was born in Ireland, her parents died when she was an infant and when she was seven years of age she was sent to live with her aunt in Philadelphia. **[87]** One day Margaret and a few of her friends made a visit to Bishop John Neumann. They were admiring a marble shell containing the figure of a baby. The Bishop said whoever could carry it away could have it. **[88]** Later Margaret appeared with her wagon and carried the statue away (it is now in our Heritage Room.) **[89]** Bishop Neumann is said to have told Margaret, after she managed to obtain the marble statue that she would

one day become a Sister and probably superior of her congregation. She entered the congregation at 17 years of age.

**[90]** Mother Annunciata was an educator first and last. She possessed a genius for teaching, and she loved it. The community sensed her ability and gave her every advantage that Saint Mary's and Notre Dame of the 1870s could offer. **[91]** She took courses in science, art, literature and philosophy. **[92]** She advocated higher education for women. **[93]** In 1875 she was elected as second assistant at Saint Mary's, which included the assignment of directress of the academy. She held this position for the next 8 years. **[94]** This was followed by 7 years as directress of Sacred Heart Academy in Salt Lake City.

Because of the rapid development and increasing importance of Sacred Heart Academy in Salt Lake it was deemed expedient to send a teacher of superior qualifications who could, in case of emergency answer all demands and uphold the best interests of the Community. By vote of the Chapter Mother M. Annunciata, 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant at the Mother House, was elected for this place.

**[95]** Then in 1889 she was again assigned as Prefect of Saint Mary's Academy until her election as Superior General in 1895. She died suddenly in 1900.

---

**[96]** Between Mother Annunciata's two terms as Directress of Saint Mary's were Sister Lucretia 1881-86; and Sister Perpetua Wilson (1887-89)

---

**[97]** Alida Fuller, who later became Mother M. Lucretia was born in 1845 in Cold Water, Michigan, the daughter of the Honorable Esbon G. Fuller and Elizabeth Buch Fuller. Her mother died when Alida was five years old. **[98]** Judge Fuller, acquainted with the high scholastic and moral standards of Saint Mary's Academy at Notre Dame, decided to confide his motherless daughter to the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

**[99]** During her school years at Saint Mary's, Alida became attracted to the Catholic faith and she asked to attend the students' retreat. This led to her conversion to Catholicism, and her desire to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

On May 25, 1865, she was baptized by Father Sorin, receiving the name Mary Elizabeth out of love for her own mother and for Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

**[100]** Mary Elizabeth's conversion, as well as her intention to enter the religious life, met with strong opposition from her family, Protestant-minded for many generations. Her father and brother, both convinced that she was making a childish but grave error, determined to save her from herself. Repeatedly they attempted to force her from her resolution.

**[101]** Unable to secure her father's consent, she decided to run away from home. In secret moments she gathered her postulant wardrobe and stored it away in her trunk.

**[102]** Late one night a servant, pledged to secrecy, carried it cautiously down the back stairs. **[103]** Several days later she accepted an invitation to some social affair at Saint Mary's and she bade her unsuspecting family goodbye.

Such were the circumstances under which Mary Fuller entered the novitiate of the Sisters of the Holy Cross on July 22, 1866, one year after her graduation from the academy. But her troubles were not ended. True to form, the irate father pursued his runaway child. **[104]** In desperation he appealed to Father Sorin to dissuade his daughter from her purpose. The meeting was providential; a strong man faced a strong man, and **[105]** gradually Father Sorin prevailed. "She is happy," the Judge admitted, "and her happiness is what I most desire." Never again did he urge her to return home. So peace came to Mary Fuller.

**[106]** On completing her novitiate, Sister Lucretia was assigned to the music department of Saint Mary's as instructor in voice and harp. It was said that her own voice, though powerful and well trained, was not particularly pleasing, but her teaching was excellent. She was an enthusiastic educator.

**[107]** In 1881, she was assigned as director of Saint Mary's for the next five years. Her days were crowded to overflowing, and she continued her teaching along with her administrative work.

**[108]** In 1886, being an able organizer and educator,, she was then sent to open the academy in Woodland, California. With the assistance of seven other sisters and the enthusiastic pastor, she succeeded in establishing an academy which, from its beginning ranked high among educational institutions in California.

**[109]** Mother Lucretia was a lineal descendant of Benjamin Franklin, and those who knew her best imagined they saw in the two a family resemblance.

Her appreciation of the arts and languages is evidenced by a printed document from Saint Mary's Academy in November 1881. It reads:

**[110]** Dancing lessons will begin next week.

**[111]** The Gregorian and St. Cecilia's Societies are diligently endeavoring to make Sacred music appreciated among the pupils at Saint Mary's  
On Tuesday evening, the young ladies of the different classes have social receptions in one of the Academy parlors.

**[112]** The French and German classes meet twice a week, under the direction of their teachers to converse in these languages. The same classes also sit in the refectory at tables presided by their teachers, and are required to converse only in their respective languages.

---

At the Annual Chapter held in July 1886, Mother M. Angela had been chosen to take the place of Mother M. Lucretia, On the death of Mother Angela, **[113]** Sister Perpetua who had been for some years prefect of discipline, was named to finish the year's duties as directress of the school, and at the Chapter held in the summer of 1887 was elected to serve the remainder of the time till the next general election. She was Directress of the

Academy for only two years and at that time was also involved in General Administration.

**[114]** Even though her short duration as directress of the Academy was only two years she continued to influence the direction of the educational program during her ensuing years as **[115]** Mother General of the Congregation from 1900 to 1919.

**[116]** Sister Perpetua's musical education, begun at the boarding school in Philadelphia, was continued after her entrance into the community. She established music departments in several of our academies, and eventually the duties of prefect of discipline were added to those of music teacher.

**[117]** It was said that "*She did great things in an unassuming way. Her heart was big enough to hold all the needy ones of the world.... hers was the gift of the iron hand in the velvet glove, the power to secure the discipline that makes for peace and joy.*"

It has been said that no Holy Cross superior maintained better order than Mother Perpetua, and the community was happy those nineteen years she governed it. Although her manner was abrupt and her speech blunt, her authority was never aggressive. She flavored her announcements with good humor, and the brunt of a reprimand was softened by her unique wording of it.... She never dismissed an offender without an encouraging word or a forgiving smile.

**[118]** During her administration the work of the congregation went forward smoothly and steadily.... The Sisters' quarters were made more comfortable by the addition of Rosary Hall and Basil Hall.

Mother Perpetua was not a school woman, her contemporaries say, but she was wise enough to leave scholastic matters to capable women like Mother Pauline. In regard to conduct, Mother could advise admirably, and she conscientiously tried to arouse in the teaching religious a sense of their grave responsibility. **[119]** "Good example," she counseled, "is the first lesson the teacher should give her pupils; it is the shortest and surest way to lead them to virtue. If you wish your pupils to do good, do it yourself. You



inspire them with the love and desire of virtue by your wise and well-ordered conduct more than by anything you can say to them."

---

**[120]** Mother M. Pauline (O'Neill) was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant on the General Council and in that capacity was appointed as Directress of Saint Mary's beginning in 1895 -- a position she held for the next 36 years !

---

**[121]** Bridget O'Neill was born in 1854 in Peoria, Illinois, the daughter of Thomas O'Neill and Mary Neill.

**[122]** Her early education was at the Cathedral Parochial School and Academy in Peoria. **[123]** After that she attended Saint Mary's Academy, Notre Dame for five years. During her fifth year she took the post-graduate course and she graduated from Saint Mary's in 1871.

**[124]** After graduation, before she joined the Sisters of the Holy Cross, she accompanied her father on business trips to distant parts of the country. **[125]** She also took advantage of the things she loved, such as beautiful clothes, dancing, music, the theater, and opera.

The years passed tranquilly until she was twenty-five years old, at which time in 1879 she joined the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

**[126]** Her first ministry assignments were as a music teacher at Sacred Heart Academy, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Saint Mary's Academy, Austin Texas. In 1889 she was appointed religious superior and principal at Sacred Heart Academy, Ogden, Utah. It was there that she was responsible for building a new academy in 1892.

**[127]** In 1895 Mother Pauline began her long tenure of 36 years as leader of Saint Mary's. During these formative years Mother Pauline led the college **[66]** as a builder,

educator and achiever of excellence.... She began to furnish Saint Mary's with a leadership that was spiritual and cultural, strongly moral and progressively intellectual. Under that leadership, Saint Mary's evolved, gradually...from an academy that was always more than an academy into a top-ranking college for women, one of the first Catholic women's colleges to confer a college degree.

**[128]** When Mother Pauline was given supervision over education in 1895 the Preparatory Building (Bertrand Hall) held all the classes of the grades and academy.

**[129]** In 1902, the Student Infirmary (currently used as a guest house) was completed and **[130]** that same year the corner stone of the college (Holy Cross Hall) was laid. Mother Pauline did not stop planning, for under her careful supervision the college grew steadily. **[131]** In 1924, the cornerstone for the new college (Le Mans Hall) was laid. The building was completed in 1925.

**[132]** It was in this constant looking ahead, visioning greater and better things, and yet in acting and growing slowly and deliberately, that Mother Pauline's power lay....To her, education was not merely a systematic accumulation of knowledge... to be forced into the student's mind, education is growth -- individual growth -- of soul and mind and body. For that reason Mother Pauline was personally interested in every student who came to Saint Mary's. She knew each one, and, busy as she was, she would stop any work to listen to one of the students who might drop into her office at any time.

**[133]** Mother Pauline numbered her friends in legions. While still active as president, she traveled about, always in the interests of education. Often it was through her personal influence that such lecturers as Henry James, Henry Van Dyke, William Butler Yeats, Aline and Joyce Kilmer, William Howard Taft and numerous others were brought to Saint Mary's

**[134]** Many Sisters of the Holy Cross have distinguished themselves as nurses, but Mother Pauline did not have to go into the field of battle or into the hospitals to give her

aid. During the first world war she was at the head of the student army which sewed and knitted, saved and prayed for their brothers, uncles, and friends abroad.

**[135]** During the early years of Mother Pauline's administration, one might say that the outside social life of the students left much to be desired. This followed the pattern and rules of previous administrations. Only brothers and cousins from Notre Dame were permitted to visit Saint Mary's students. Those who "posed" as a brother or cousin were quickly found out and sent away without succeeding in their plans!. It was not until 1920 that the men at Notre Dame attended a dance at Saint Mary's.

**[136]** The academic programs were Mother Pauline's top priority. She moved quickly to having Saint Mary's College accredited. In 1901 she invited the North Central Association committee on accreditation to visit Saint Mary's. Two years later, at the recommendation of the accrediting committee, the charter of 1855 was amended to authorize the legal existence of a college as well as an academy at Saint Mary's. Four years after the visit of the accreditation team, Saint Mary's College received formal accreditation from the North Central Association.

**[137]** The year 1920 marked a rise in enrollment and there was an urgent need to build. In response to this need, plans for Le Mans Hall were initiated by Mother Pauline. She submitted her plans for Le Mans Hall convincing the other members of the General Council that the time had come to separate the two institutions (the Academy and the College) completely. Late in the spring of 1924 the general council voted approval of Mother Pauline's plan. The cornerstone was laid that same year, and the building was completed in 1925.

**[138]** In 1931, Mother Pauline retired as President of Saint Mary's College and spent her final four years in Saint Mary's Convent Infirmary. She died there on January 5, 1935.

**[139]** Mother Pauline walked with God in ways of peace. She saw Beauty and in her daily living, she patterned Beauty for others. A pioneer in Catholic higher

education for women, she broadened the horizons and enlarged opportunities for valiant womanhood. With holy wisdom she built Sacred Heart Academy, Utah, Holy Cross and Le Mans Halls at St. Mary's, which are ageless monuments for her towering spirit

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Published Books

Brosnahan, Sister M. Eleanore, C.S.C. *On the King's Highway: a History of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1931

Costin, Sister M. Georgia, C.S.C. *Priceless Spirit, A History of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, 1841-1893*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994

Creek, Sister Mary Immaculate, CSC. *A Panorama: 1847-1977*. Notre Dame, IN: Saint Mary's College, 1977

McAllister, Anna Shannon. *Flame in the Wilderness: Life and Letters of Mother Angela Gillespie, C.S.C.* Paterson, NJ: St. Anthony Guild Press, 1944

O'Laughlin, Sister M. Francis Jerome, C.S.C. *This is Mother Pauline: Centenary Chronicles of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*: vol. VII. Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of the Holy Cross, 1945

Sisters of the Holy Cross. *Our Provinces: Centenary Chronicles of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*: Mother M. Pauline (O'Neill) was elected 2nd assistant on the General Chapter and in that capacity was appointed as Directress of Saint Mary's beginning in 1895 -- a position she held for the next 36 years Vol.V. Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of the Holy Cross, 1941.

### *Pioneers and Builders*

### Other

WWW (World Wide Web): Selected Photographs

*Archives Narrative: Saint Mary's Convent, 1834-1891*. Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives

(Box SJ 1.1), Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana

O'Neill, Mother M. Pauline. [File Box] Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives (Box L3.5),  
Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana

## **Introduction**

Before starting this presentation I'd like to say a couple of things about the terminology and some of the photographs from the world wide web:

Terminology

**Sister** - Title given to every Sister of the Holy Cross

**Mother** - Title given to Sisters who, were elected/appointed to General and Provincial Administration positions -- this title is no longer used by the Sisters of the Holy Cross

Saint Mary's **Academy** -- name used for Saint Mary's before college degrees were conferred

Saint Mary's **College** -- name used for Saint Mary's after college degrees were conferred



# Saint Mary's College Notre Dame, Indiana The Early Years 1844-1931

Sister Kathryn Callahan, CSC  
2020 Holy Cross History Conference

## 1844 – 1931- Eleven Holy Cross Sisters

7. Sister Eusebia (McIntosh) – 1867-72
8. Mother Annunciata (McSheffrey) – 1873-81;  
1889-95
9. Sister Lucretia (Fuller) – 1881-86
10. Mother Perpetua (Wilson) – 1887-89
11. Mother Pauline (O'Neill) – 1895-1931



Ancillary Services

## PLEASE NOTE

This presentation is intended for private use only. The images outlined in red have been taken from the world wide web for illustrative purposes only. Some of these images "may be subject to copyright." All other images are the property of the Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives.

Mother Angela Gillespie



&

Mother Pauline O'Neill



Father Sorin & Holy Cross Brothers

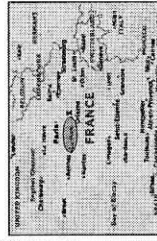


## 1844 – 1931- Eleven Holy Cross Sisters

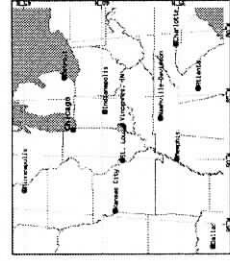
1. Sister Heart of Jesus (Savery) – 1844-45
2. Sister Five Wounds (Paillet) – 1845-47
3. Mother Cenacle (Naveau) – 1847-48
4. Sister Euphrasia (Bourmet) – 1849
5. Mother Savior (Morineau) – 1849-54
6. Mother Angela (Gillespie) – 1854-67; 1886-87



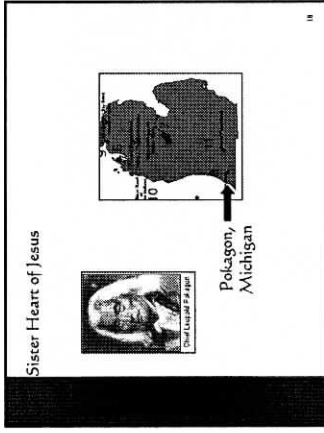
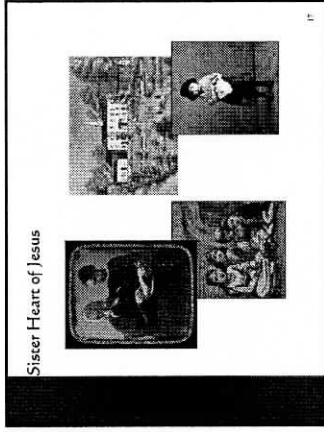
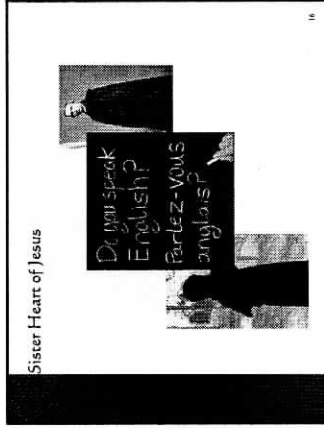
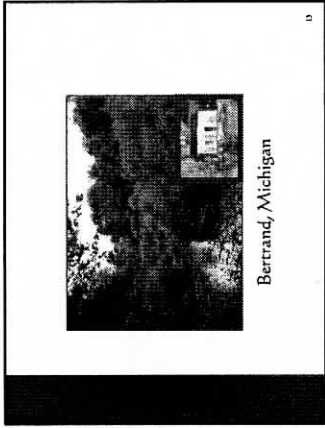
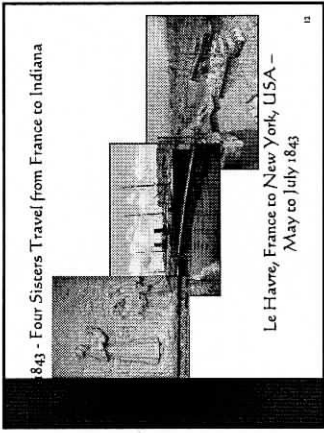
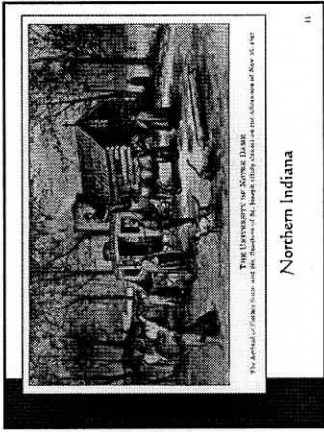
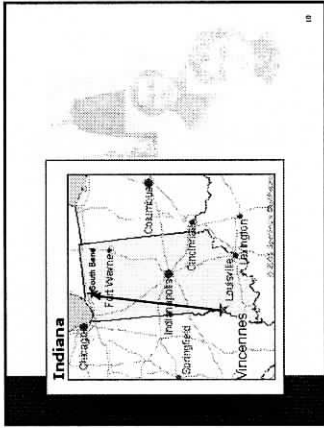
Rev. Basil Moreau



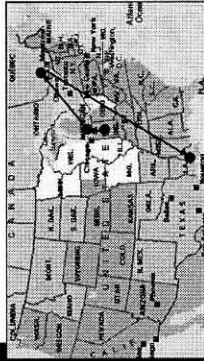
Le Mans, France



Southern Indiana

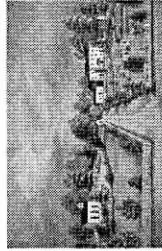


Sister Heart of Jesus



11

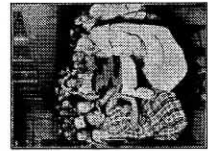
Sister Five Wounds



Bertrand, Michigan

12

Sister Five Wounds



Industrial Schools

13

Sister Heart of Jesus



14

Sister Five Wounds



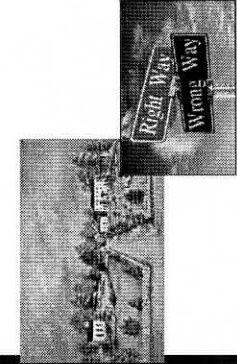
15

Sister Five Wounds



16

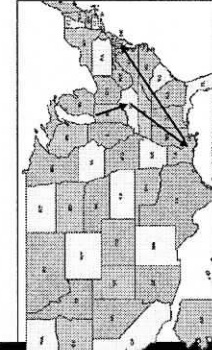
Mother M. Cenacle



17

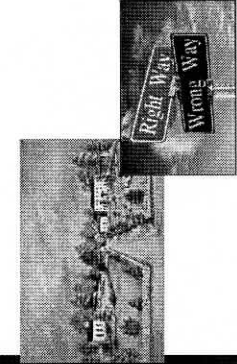
Sister Mary of the Five Wounds

Sister Five Wounds



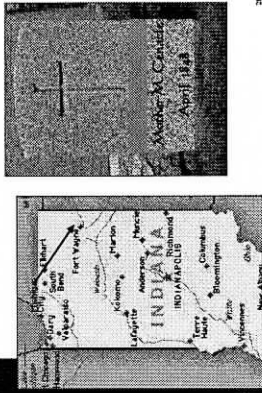
18

Mother M. Cenacle



19

Mother M. Cenacle

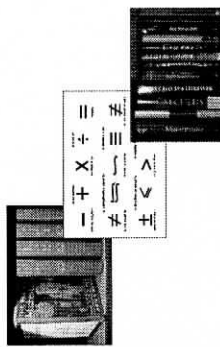


Mother M. Theodore Guerin, SP

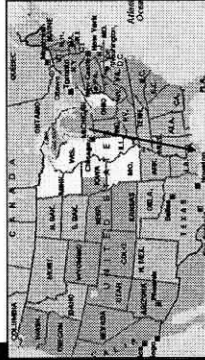


Sister M. Euphrasia

Sister M. Euphrasia



Sister M. Euphrasia



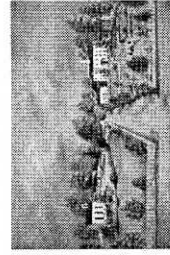
Mother Mary of the Savior

(appropriately named !!)

Mother Mary of the Savior



Mother Mary of the Savior



Bertrand, Michigan - 1849

Improvements in house and school  
Educational advancement of the Sisters

Mother Mary of the Savior



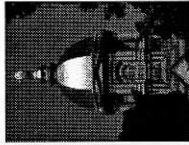
Religion & Scripture



Flower Making

31

Mother Mary of the Savior



Notre Dame



32

Mother Mary of the Savior



1849



33

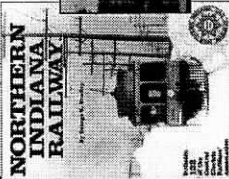
Mother Mary of the Savior

30 days prayer



34

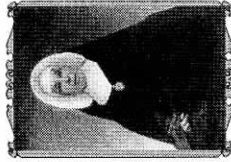
Mother Mary of the Savior



Southern Michigan  
Railroad

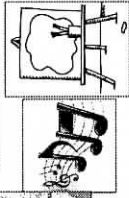
41

Mother M. Angela Gillespie



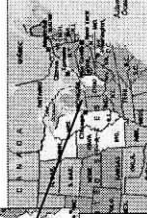
42

Mother Mary of the Savior



35

Mother Mary of the Savior



43

Mother M. Angela

Born: February 21, 1814 Lancaster, Ohio



Education - Visitation  
Academy Washington, D.C.

44

Mother M. Angela

Extra-Curricular Activities

Opera

Galleries

Congress

Mother M. Angela

Political and Intellectual Atmosphere in Ohio and Pennsylvania

Mother M. Angela

Uncle - Thomas Ewing -

- U.S. Senator
- Secretary of Interior
- Cabinet of President Zachary Taylor

Mother M. Angela

Political Connections

Cousin - Ellen Ewing Sherman  
(wife of William Tecumseh Sherman)

Mother M. Angela

Cousin - James Gillespie Blaine

- U.S. Senator;
- U.S. House of Representatives;
- Secretary of State

Mother M. Angela

Social Works

Mother M. Angela

Rev. Edward Sorin, CSC, influenced her decision to enter the Sisters of the Holy Cross. They became life-long co-workers in Holy Cross

Mother M. Angela

Caen, France

Good Shepherd Convent


Mother M. Angela

The Journey Back to Indiana

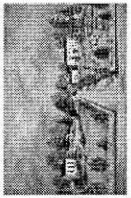


Mother M. Angela

Berrand, Michigan



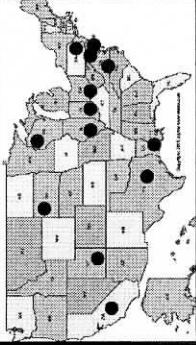
Mission Church



Saint Mary's Academy

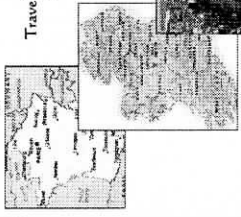

Mother M. Angela

her Establishments from 1857 - 1887 for which she had  
the responsibilities --- located in the following States:



Mother M. Angela

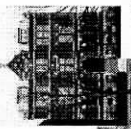


Travel to France, Ireland,  
Luxembourg

Mother M. Angela


Establishments from 1857 - 1887 for which she  
had some responsibilities

Hospitals - 12  
Orphanages - 4  
Schools - 55






Mother M. Angela


Civil War





Red Rover  
Hospital  
Ship





Field Hospital



Mother M. Angela





Mother M. Angela






Mother M. Angela

Ave Maria  
Journal  
1865 - 1870



Mother M. Angela

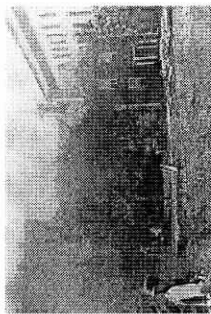
Discussing the Future of Saint Mary's

Mother M. Angela

- Bertrand Village Not Growing
- Railroads Not Attracting Industries
- Distance from Notre Dame Too Far

3

Mother M. Angela



Move to Saint Mary's along with some of the buildings in 1855

4

Mother M. Angela

BUILDINGS - 1855-1887

5

Mother M. Angela



Decision to Move Saint Mary's to its Present Site

6

Mother M. Angela



South Bend Responds

7

Mother M. Angela



Chapel of Loreto

8

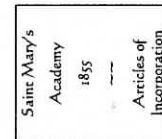
Mother M. Angela



Orphans & Other Dependents  
Relocated from  
Bertrand to Mishawaka

9

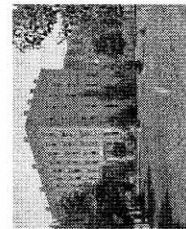
Mother M. Angela



By this charter Saint Mary's became legally authorized as a Catholic college for women in the United States.

10

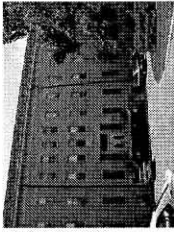
Mother M. Angela



Bertrand Hall - 1862

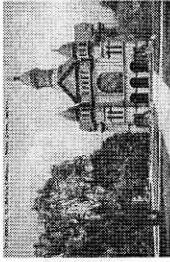
11

Mother M. Angela



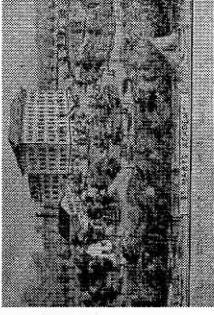
Lourdes Hall - 1872

Mother M. Angela



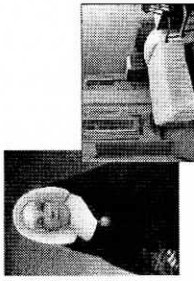
Church of Loretto - 1885

Mother M. Angela



Saint Mary's Academy

Mother M. Angela Gillespie



Mother Angela died March 4, 1887

- Readiness to see and promptly meet the necessities of the moment,
- Unerring insight and appreciation of character,
- Quick expansive intellect
- Made her popular in the educational world
- Made her a power for the advancement of Christian culture

Mother M. Eusebia



Mother M. Eusebia



Mother M. Eusebia  
Mother M. Annunciata  
Sister M. Lucretia  
Mother M. Perpetua

Mother M. Eusebia

Woman of Culture  
Accomplished  
Tactful

Full of resources  
Recognized the need of a solid,  
religious training for young women

Mother M. Eusebia

A true educator

Mathematics

Science

4 Language Skills

Languages

Mother M. Eusebia

Died Suddenly at 42 years of age after an illness of only 24 hours.

This was a great shock to the community

Mother M. Annunciata

Three days after the death of Mother Eusebia, the council appointed a replacement.

The votes of the assembly were unanimously cast for Mother Annunciata

Mother M. Annunciata

Mother Annunciata  
Directress at  
Saint Mary's Academy  
1873-1881  
&  
1889-1895

Mother M. Annunciata

Pennsylvania

Ireland

Mother M. Annunciata

Marble Shell containing the figure of a Baby.

Mother M. Annunciata

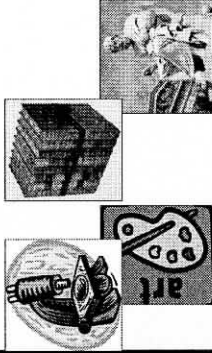
Mother M. Annunciata

Bishop John Neumann told young Margaret McSheffrey that she would one day become a sister and probably superior of her Congregation

Mother M. Annunciata

An educator –  
possessed a genius  
for teaching

Mother M. Annunciata



Science, Art, Literature, Philosophy

18

Mother M. Annunciata

Directress of Sacred Heart Academy in Salt Lake City for next 7 years

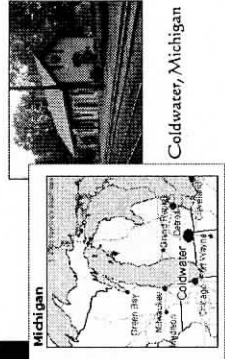
Rapid development and increasing importance of Sacred Heart Academy

Needed a sister of superior qualifications

Mother M. Annunciata, was elected for this place.

19

Sister M. Lucretia



Coldwater, Michigan

20

Mother M. Annunciata

Advocated higher education for women



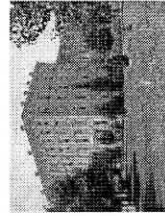
21

Mother M. Annunciata

- 1889 - Assigned Prefect of Saint Mary's Academy
- 1895 - Elected Superior General
- Died suddenly in 1900

22

Sister M. Lucretia



23

Mother M. Annunciata



Elected to General Council as Second Assistant



Directress of Saint Mary's Academy for 8 years

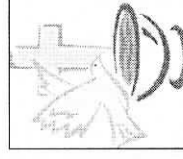
24



Sister M. Lucretia

25

Sister M. Lucretia



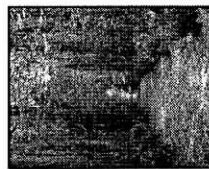
26

Sister M. Lucretia



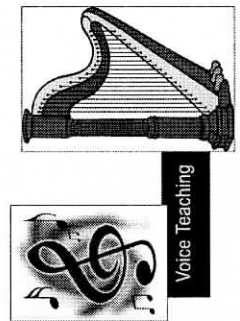
182

Sister M. Lucretia



183

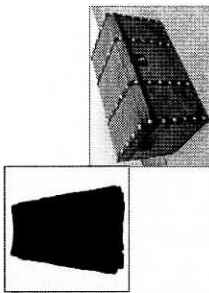
Sister M. Lucretia



Voice Teaching

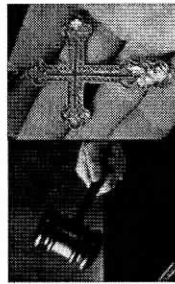
184

Sister M. Lucretia



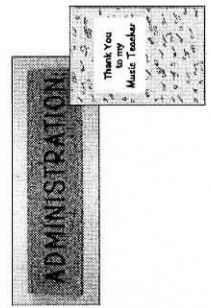
185

Sister M. Lucretia



186

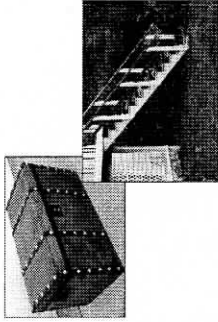
Sister M. Lucretia



Thank You  
to my  
Music Teacher

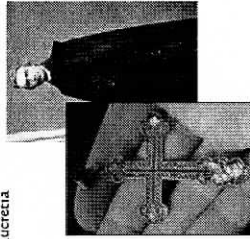
187

Sister M. Lucretia



188

Sister M. Lucretia



189

Sister M. Lucretia



190

Sister M. Lucretia



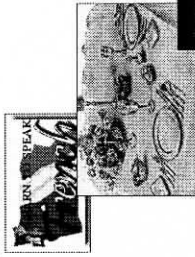
Benjamin Franklin



Sister M. Lucretia

112

Sister M. Lucretia



Sprechen Sie Deutsch?  
Erstaunliche.

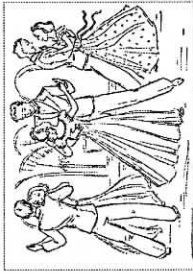
113

Mother M. Perpetua  
Superior General 1900 - 1919



115

Sister M. Lucretia

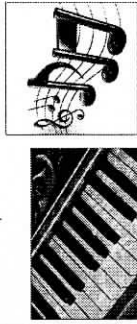


116

Mother M. Perpetua

118

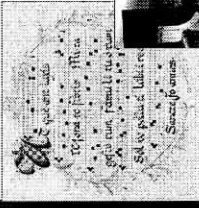
Mother M. Perpetua



Her musical education began at the Academy of the Immaculate Conception boarding school in Philadelphia and was continued after her entrance into the community

119

Sister M. Lucretia



121

Mother M. Perpetua



Directress of Academy for 2 years

124

Mother M. Perpetua

Did great things in an unassuming way  
Gift of the "iron hand in the velvet glove"

Authority was never aggressive

Flavored her announcements with good humor



Always had an encouraging word




127



Mother M. Perpetua


Rosary Hall



Basil Hall

118

Mother M. Perpetua

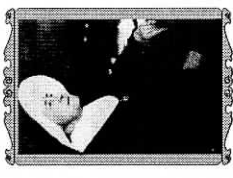


Good Example – first lesson

Do Good if you wish your pupils to do good  
Inspire by your conduct more than by anything  
you can say

119

Mother M. Pauline O'Neill

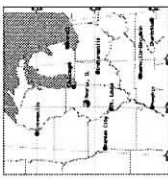


120

Mother M. Pauline (Bridget O'Neill)  
1854 - 1935

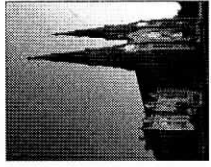
born: February 15, 1854  
Morris, IL

parents: Thomas O'Neill  
& Mary Neill



121

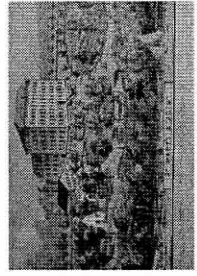
Mother M. Pauline



Cathedral of the Academy – Peoria, Illinois

122


Mother M. Pauline




Graduated from Saint Mary's  
Academy in 1871

123

Mother M. Pauline







Traveled With Her  
Father on Business  
Trips



124

Mother M. Pauline




Things She Loved

Clothes – Dancing – Music – Theater - Opera

125

Mother M. Pauline

Wayne

Austin

Sacred Heart Academy, Ogden, Utah

126

Mother M. Pauline

BUILDER  
EDUCATOR

ACHIEVER OF EXCELLENCE

1895 - Academy      1931 - College

Mother M. Pauline

Bertrand Hall

Mother M. Pauline

Infirmary - 1902

Mother M. Pauline

Holy Cross Hall - 1904

Mother M. Pauline

Le Mans Hall - 1925

Mother M. Pauline

Vision

Education

Every Student

Mother M. Pauline

Lecturers

Henry James

Henry Van Dyle

William Butler Yeats

Aline & Joyce Kilmer

William Howard Taft

Mother M. Pauline

You can help

World War I - Saint Mary's Responds

Mother M. Pauline

Social Life

Early Days - Little Outside Social Life Existed

Only brothers & cousins from Notre Dame were permitted to visit Saint Mary's

It was not until 1920 that the men at Notre Dame attended a dance at Saint Mary's



North Central Association – founded 1895

Sister Pauline invited them to visit in 1901 & Saint Mary's received Accreditation four years later

Mother M. Pauline O'Neill, CSC  
RELIGIOUS -- EDUCATOR -- BUILDER

ther Pauline walked with God in ways of peace. She Beauty and in her daily living, she patterned Beauty others. A pioneer in Catholic higher education for men, she broadened the horizons and enlarged priorities for valiant womanhood. With holy wisdom built Sacred Heart Academy, Utah, Holy Cross and Mams Hallis at St. Mary's, which are ageless monuments for her towering spirit.

### Works Consulted

## Published Works (continued)

Alister, Anna Shannon. *Flame in the Wilderness. Life and Letters of Mother Angela Gillespie*, C.S.C. Paterson, N.J. St. Anthony's Press, 1944

*ters of the Holy Cross. A Story of Fifty Years: From the Annals of  
Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross 1855-1905*

ers of the Holy Cross. This is *Mother Pauline: Centenary*  
*Annals of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*: Vol. VII, Notre D

Separation of the  
Academy & College



- 1920 – marked increase in enrollment
- Mother Pauline submitted plans for Le Mans Hall – the time had come to separate the Academy & the College) completely.
- 1924-25 – Le Mans Hall was built

# The End

### Works Consulted

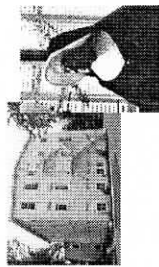
## Published Works (continued)

ters of the Holy Cross, *Our Provinces: Centenary Chronicles of Sisters of the Holy Cross*: Vol. V. Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of the Cross, 1941.

ers of the Holy Cross. *Superior Generals: Centenary Chronicles*  
the *Sisters of the Holy Cross: Vol. II, Notre Dame, IN: Sisters of*

*Builders of the Holy Cross, Pioneers and Builders: Centenary Holy Cross, 1941*

Saint Mary's Convent Infirmary  
Resident and Patient 1931-1935  
Died January 5, 1935



### Works Consulted

## Published Works

nnahan, Sister M. Eleanor, C.S.C. *On the King's Highway: a  
ory of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*. New York: D. Appleton and  
pany, 1931

tin, Sister M. Georgia, C.S.C. *Priceless Spirit, A History of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, 1841-1893*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994.

Book; Sister Mary Immaculate, CSC. *A Panorama: 1847-1977*.  
 The Dame. [N: Saint Mary's College. 1977]

### Works Consulted

**Published Works and Congressional Records**

ive Narrative: *Saint Mary's Convent, 1834-1891*. Sisters of the  
y Cross Archives (Box SJ 1.1), Saint Mary's, Notre Dame,  
ana

Leill, Mother M. Pauline. [File Box] Sisters of the Holy Cross  
nives (Box L3.5), Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana

**World Wide Web (www)**  
(Illustration purposes, selected photographs were copied for use in presentation. Some of them might have a copyright, and are added for this private presentation only.)

**Saint Mary's Academy/College  
Leadership Line 1844 - 1931**

1. Sister M. Heart of Jesus (Savery) 1844-1845
2. Sister Mary of the Five Wounds (Paillett) 1845-1847
3. Mother M. Cenacle (Naveau) 1847- 1848
4. Sister M. Euphrasia (Bournet) 1849
5. Mother Mary of the Savior (Morineau) 1849-1854
6. Mother Angela (Gillespie) 1854-1867; 1886-1887
7. Sister M. Eusebia (McIntosh) 1867-1872
8. Mother M. Annunciata (McSheffrey) 1873-1881; 1889-1895
9. Sister M. Lucretia (Fuller) 1881-1886
10. Mother M. Perpetua (Wilson) 1887-1889
11. Mother M. Pauline (O'Neill) 1895-1931