

DE PAUL UNIVERSITY

A HISTORY OF
SAINT GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL

A DISSERTATION
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OF THE
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BY

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INTRODUCTION

The history of Saint George High School from its beginning in 1927 up to and including the school year of 1951-52 is an attempt to relate the background leading up to the establishment of the school and its actual construction. A summary of the administrative work accomplished by the various principals will likewise be given. The development of the curriculum will then be traced. The increasing importance of religious, educational, and vocational guidance will be spelled out as well as the records will permit. An attempt to describe the contributions by the school to the Church, to the local community, and to the nation will furnish the conclusion.

Of the four persons who formed the original community of Brothers of the Christian Schools at Saint George High School, only one is now a living member of that congregation.¹ In addition there are only three others still living of those Brothers who were on the staff during the first three years of its existence.² Hence, there is great need of recording in permanent form the information that can be supplied only by these primary sources.

¹Community Register, (Personnel list of the St. George High School Community; this register is kept in the community archives), Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4.

²Ibid., Numbers 3, 5, 14.

Educationally speaking, an objective and accurate report of the beginning and growth of the institution can only help to bring out its meritorious accomplishments on the one hand and its deficiencies on the other. It need hardly be mentioned that the knowledge of such accomplishments and deficiencies is a sine qua non in the planning for the future required of administrators by virtue of their office. Quick and convenient accessibility of such matter will incline them much more readily to learn from the past in looking forward to the future.

There is in the history of Saint George High School elements not to be found in the development of a typical Catholic secondary high school for boys in a large metropolitan area. It is at present the only such school exclusively for boys in that area of Chicago known as the North Shore suburbs.¹ It is the only central high school within the present limits of the Chicago archdiocese built by the archdiocese and not affiliated with a parish.² It is the only high school in the archdiocese staffed by Brothers of the Christian Schools which that congregation has acquired as its own some time after the

¹Kenedy, P.J. and Sons. The Official Catholic Directory 1952 (New York: 1952), p. 41.

²Statement by William Hoffmann, Business Administrator of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Personal Interview, July 21, 1952. This particular aspect of uniqueness will disappear with the completion of the new St. Patrick's High School at Belmont and Austin Avenues.

school had been built.¹ These factors then deserve examination in order to determine the influence they have had on the educational program and results of the institution.

SOURCES

The historical technique will be employed. The primary sources of information are the persons still living who were or are connected with the establishment and growth of the school. By means of personal interviews and letters significant information has been elicited. These sources include Brother Leopold Julian, who was provincial for the Saint Louis Province of the Brothers of the Christian Schools from 1924 to 1933;² Mr. William Hoffmann, at present the business administrator of the archdiocese of Chicago; Most Reverend Edward F. Hoban, now archbishop-bishop of Cleveland, Ohio, at that time auxiliary bishop of Chicago; Brother Josephus Bertram, the only living Christian Brother from that first community;³ Brother Hector Vincent, who was stationed at Saint George from 1929 to 1941

¹Contract between La Salle Institute (the legal title of the corporation acting for the St. Louis Province of the Brothers of the Christian Schools) and the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, December 1, 1944.

²Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., Mississippi Vista: The Brothers of the Christian Schools in the Midwest, 1849-1949 (Winona, Minnesota: St. Mary's College Press, 1948), p. 58.

³Community Register, Number 3.

and who became intimately acquainted with the early history of the school.¹

Besides the persons involved, school records have been consulted; blue-prints, legal documents detailing acquisition of the property and other pertinent factors, annual reports to the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges and to the University of Illinois. Furthermore, there are kept in the religious community as specified by the constitutions of the congregation² two documents which contain pertinent information: (1) the history of the community summarized annually, and (2) the community register which notes brief biographical information as well as the dates of arrival and departure by the various religious who have staffed the school faculty.

Useful as secondary sources were the school paper published intermittently, year-books as well, the Evanston newspapers, and the New World.

RELATED LITERATURE

Brother Henry Casimir La Budda wrote in 1941 a "History of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the St. Louis

¹Community Register, Number 14.

²Brothers of the Christian Schools, Rule of Government of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Rome: 1947), Chapter XIX, article 41, p. 127.

District."¹ In it there is a sketch of the beginnings of Saint George High School covering 2 pages. .

In 1948 appeared Mississippi Vista.² Amounting to almost 300 pages in a volume with dimensions of eight by eleven inches it is a record of the work of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the middle west covering approximately the century, 1848 to 1948. The chapter on Saint George High School contains four pages of text and three pages of illustrations. Among the useful lists therein are the following: the parishes together with their pastors who were assessed to provide the funds for the construction of the school, the alumni who had become members of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the alumni who had become priests, and the Directors together with their years in office.

Within the last five years two theses have appeared, the one concerning Saint Patrick's High School,³ and the other

¹La Sudda, Brother Henry Casimir. "History of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the St. Louis District" (Unpublished Master's thesis, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, 1941), pp. 122, 123.

²Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C. op. cit. pp. 160-66. Brother Luke Clement, the author of the chapter on St. George High School, was at that time a member of the St. George Community. He is now stationed at De La Salle High School, Minneapolis.

³Gilskey, Brother Conrad Leo, F.S.C., "History and Educational Program of St. Patrick's Academy" (Unpublished Master's thesis, Department of Education, Loyola University, Chicago, 1950).

dealing with Saint Mel High School.¹ Their method of procedure has provided some help in the planning of this study. In a number of instances some of the religious personnel of those two communities have in the course of the annual assignments by the Provincial either become or had previously been members of the Saint George community.

A thesis completed only last year at De Paul concerned itself with a follow-up study of alumni from the years 1940-1945.² Through a questionnaire the author endeavored to find out the thinking of this group particularly in reference to the curriculum they were offered.

A study was made last year of guidance at Saint George as a part of the Master of Education program at De Paul.³ It is a detailed story of the guidance procedures in use at the school starting even at the beginning of the institution with many informal methods later developing into a more and more formally-organized program. The work of Brother Ignatius Patrick and of Brother Julius Edgar was especially noted.

¹Pihaley, Brother Gerard, F.S.C., "History of Saint Mel's High School" (Unpublished Master's thesis, Department of Education, De Paul University, 1952).

²Kautsky, Brother L. William, F.S.C., "Survey of Graduates from Saint George High School, 1940-1945" (Unpublished Master's thesis, Department of Education, De Paul University, 1952).

³Dannecker, Brother Lawrence Peter, F.S.C., "The Guidance Program at Saint George High School: Its History and Development" (Unpublished paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Education Degree at De Paul University, 1952).

In 1948 was published a 700-page volume relating the work of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the United States.¹ In four paragraphs the author gives a summary of the beginnings and development of Saint George High School, for the most part a condensation of the material contained in Mississippi Vista.² Further on in recounting the expansion of the congregation in the United States there is a one-line reference to the opening of the school.³

¹Angelus Gabriel, Brother, F.S.C. The Christian Brothers in the United States, 1848-1948 (New York: Declan X. McFullen Co., 1948) xxxii + 700.

²Ibid., pp. 366, 367.

³Ibid., p. 607.

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL

Although 1927 marked the actual beginning of St. George High School, the project had been germinating for almost fifteen years. The lack of a Catholic high school for boys in Evanston and the North Shore suburbs was a problem which had long occupied the thoughts of those most interested in and responsible for its solution.

As far back as 1913, the pastors of the North Shore District met to consider the problem and to fill the gap that then existed The Reverend H. P. Smyth of St. Mary's and the Reverend F.J. Haarth of Sacred Heart Parish¹ were delegated to secure for the new school the services of a body of religious men who had dedicated their lives to the teaching of boys.²

In 1916 the installation of Archbishop Mundelein in Chicago indicated to the two priests that the moment was propitious for the presentation of their request. The then archbishop listened attentively to their explanation of the problem and expressed himself as heartily in accord with their judgments as to the need of a school.³ Since the archbishop had himself

¹Located in Hubbard Woods, a suburb about ten miles north of Howard Street, the northern city limits of Chicago.

²Souvenir Program, "Dedication of the Saint George High School" (Evanston: 1927), p. 20.

³Ibid., pp. 21 ff.

been educated by the Brothers of the Christian Schools in New York, he desired to obtain their services.¹ Difficulties that arose from the participation by the United States in World War I and from the readjustment period following the war prevented him from taking any immediate steps.²

In 1924 the appointment of a new provincial, Brother Leopold, to direct the development of "the fast-growing midwestern District"³ and in 1925 the visit to the United States by the Most Honorable Brother Allais Charles, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools⁴ were indications to the head of the archdiocese who had only recently received the red hat of the Cardinalate that the time was apropos for pursuing the project. In June of 1925 Cardinal Mundelein was able to speak to the Superior General when the latter visited Chicago, and Brother Charles pledged himself to provide Brothers at the earliest opportunity.⁵

His Eminence delegated the Most Reverend Edward F. Hoban, at that time auxiliary bishop of Chicago, to make the immediate

¹ Angelus Gabriel, F.S.C., Brother, op. cit., pp. 313,431

² Souvenir Program for the Dedication, p. 21.

³ Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 58.

⁴ Allais Charles, Brother, F.S.C., Visit of Our Houses of North America, Instructive and Administrative Circular, no. 245 (Lembecq-les-Hal, Belgium; 1925).

⁵ Ibid., p. 34.

arrangements for the acquisition of property suitable to the building of a school.¹

During these ten years Father Hugh Smyth² had kept the project very much alive by his exertions. He

. . . made special journeys himself to the headquarters of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in St. Louis, the Brothers of Mary at Dayton, O., and the Christian Brothers in New York. He finally interested Cardinal Mundelein and pledged St. Mary's parish for \$100,000 to assure the building of this great school for boys under the direction of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.³

In 1925 Brother Leopold, the provincial, appointed Brother Justinus Elzear, principal of De La Salle High School

¹Statement by William Hoffmann, personal interview, July 24, 1952. This is also substantiated by Brother Leopold's recollections in an interview, August 7, 1951.

²Father Smyth, a classmate of the late Cardinal Glennon at All Hallows College, Dublin, was a remarkable person in the work of the Catholic Church among the North Shore suburbs of Chicago and in the civic life of Evanston. Endowed with a genial and powerful personality, he was easily recognized everywhere by his Prince Albert coat, blackthorn cane, and bowler hat. A man of great learning he was frequently invited to lecture at Northwestern University. At his death glowing tributes were paid to him by such Evanston notables as Walter Dill Scott, president of Northwestern, George Craig Stewart, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Charles G. Dawes, vice-president of the United States, and James Patten, wealthy leader of Evanston society. The present pastor of St. Mary's, Monsignor Hillenbrand, mentions that even today, he is accosted on the street by elderly people who recall Father Smyth with affection and veneration. (Cf. Evanston News-Index, November 7, 1927, p. 1, St. Connor, Charles J., "Seventy-five Years" Diamond Jubilee, Saint Mary's Church, Evanston, Illinois : 1940, p. 29; personal interview with Monsignor Frederick E. Hillenbrand, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Nov. 29, 1952; personal interview with Rev. John Wall, alumnus of St. Mary's Parish, Nov. 30, 1952).

³Evanston News-Index, November 7, 1927, p. 2.

on the south side of Chicago,¹ and Brother James Francis, principal of St. Mel High School on the west side,² to act as his intermediaries in making arrangements with Father Smyth.³ It seems that Brother Francis took part in these conversations mainly because the Right Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. McDonnell, pastor of the St. Mel parish, was a close friend to Brother Francis and to Father Smyth.⁴ Monsignor McDonnell and Father Smyth then escorted Brother Leopold and the two other Brothers on a tour of inspection of some likely sites.

One location under consideration was situated at the northwest corner of Monroe and Dodge Streets. There were ten acres available. Charles Eiden, at that time a member of the Evanston City Council, had spoken to Mr. Samuel Insull about the possibility of putting a school at this location and inquired whether there could be arranged some public transportation. Mr. Insull had promised to install buses to run from the Dodge Street elevated station then operating, provided that the students would buy round-trip tickets on the elevated. The owner, Matthew Welter, was agreeable to the proposition.⁵

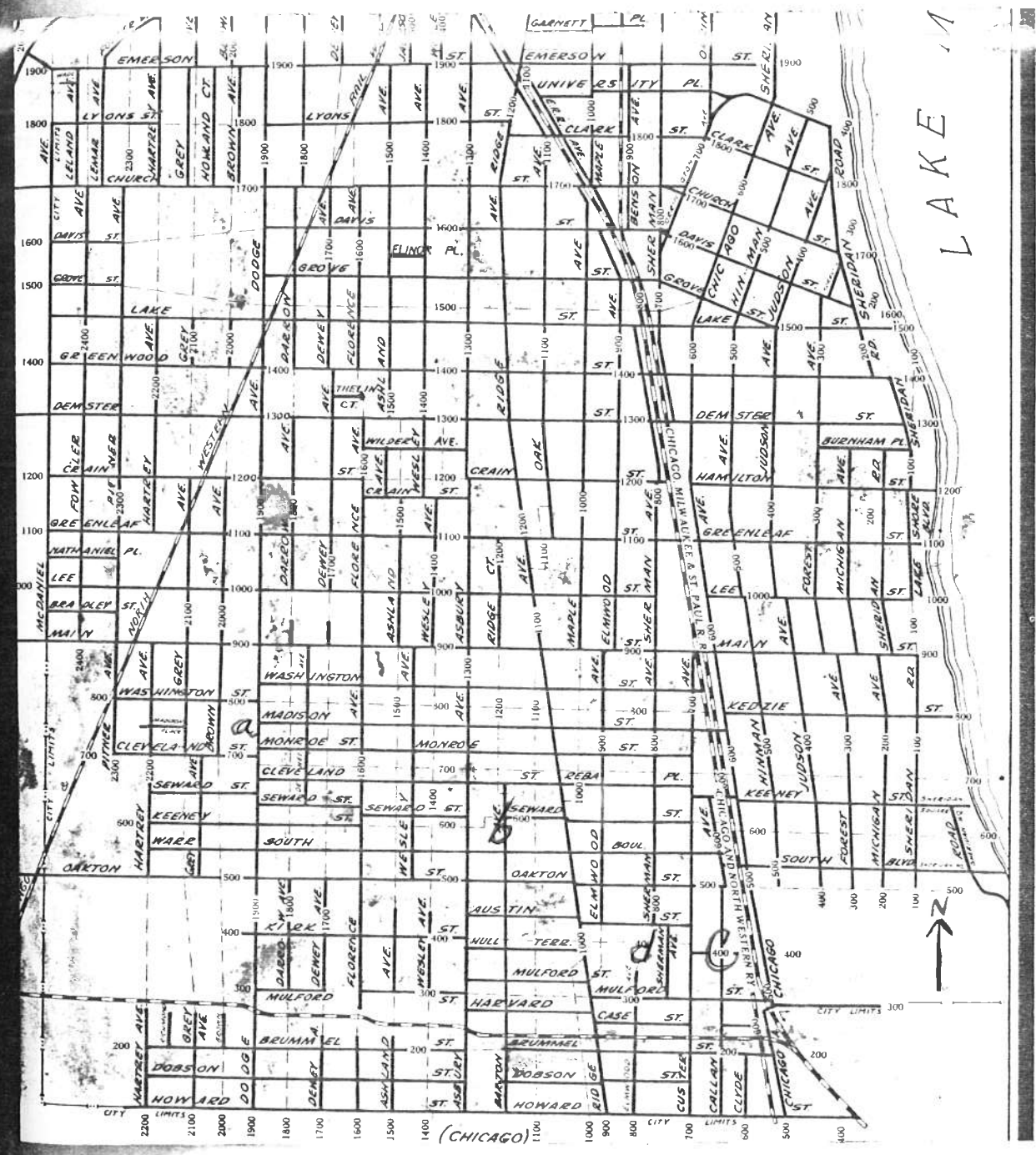
¹Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 148.

²Ibid., p. 156.

³Statement by Brother Leopold, Personal Interview, August 7, 1951.

⁴Statement by Rev. C.J. Corkery, Personal Interview, November 30, 1952. Father Corkery was a curate under Father Smyth during the years 1921-1926 (Connor, op. cit., p. 33).

⁵Statement by Charles Eiden, Personal Interview, November 30, 1952.



LAKE MICHIGAN

Fig. 1--Map of Evanston

- a. Monroe-Dodge property
- b. Asbury-Reba property
- c. Mulford-Oakton property
- d. Saint George High School

Another desirable piece of property was the plot known as "the glass bowl."¹ Located at the southeast corner of Asbury and Reba Avenues in Evanston, the owner, Jean Pierre Weiland, was ready to sell the sixty acres it took in and at a very reasonable price.² This site was eventually rejected by the archdiocese, on the ground that since many parishes on the north side of Chicago had been envisioned as feeders to the school's population, this location offered inconvenient access to the Chicago public transportation system.³

The archdiocesan authorities themselves, had only recently sold some property which would have provided a very worthwhile site. Originally part of Calvary Cemetery, this property embraced the area bounded by the Northwestern railroad on the east, Custer Avenue on the west, and Mulford and Oakton on the south and north respectively. This sale, however, which had taken place in 1925, was apparently part of a quid pro quo agreement between the archdiocese and Mr. Insull in the arrangements

¹ So named because there had been a number of greenhouses on the property. When they were torn down, a great deal of the glass, broken into small bits, was left on the ground. (Statement by Mr. Patrick Rearden, resident at 1102 South Boulevard for the last twenty years.)

² Statement by Charles Eiden, personal interview, November 30, 1952.

³ This reason does not seem to hold much water in view of the fact that Mr. Insull's offer, previously referred to, applied equally to this location. (Statement by Charles Eiden, November 30, 1952).

The original area was the old James S. Kirk estate consisting of about 19 acres which was bought by the sisters from Lafayette, Ind., in 1900. Eighteen years later three more acres adjoining the Kirk estate on the south were added to the hospital grounds for a nurses' home site.

Until about four years ago the sisters had charge of the whole 22 acres, 19 of which they had conducted as a farm for many years, thereby deriving added revenue for the hospital. Then it was found necessary to build a new wing to the building which had replaced the old Kirk home as the hospital proper in 1910. The sisters then had to choose between keeping the estate as it had been in the original and selling a part of it to provide means for the new wing, which would meet the need for a doubled capacity for patients. They chose the more social and humanitarian course and sold four acres of the hospital grounds to raise funds for the new wing.

The last sale of land from the hospital area was made at the request of the diocese of Chicago.¹

Although the Sisters were somewhat reluctant to part with the property, there were a number of compelling motives which finally resulted in the completion of the transaction as reported above. There was a great need for funds to help pay for the new nurses' home which had just been completed.² In addition Monsignor Biermann brought about an understanding by the sisters of the "request of the diocese," and helped to salve any feelings that might have unavoidably been hurt.³ The date of

¹Evanston Review, February 24, 1927, p. 26.

²Statement by Brother Hector Vincent, personal interview, August 25, 1952. Cf. also Souvenir of the Fiftieth Anniversary of St. Francis Hospital, p. 25.

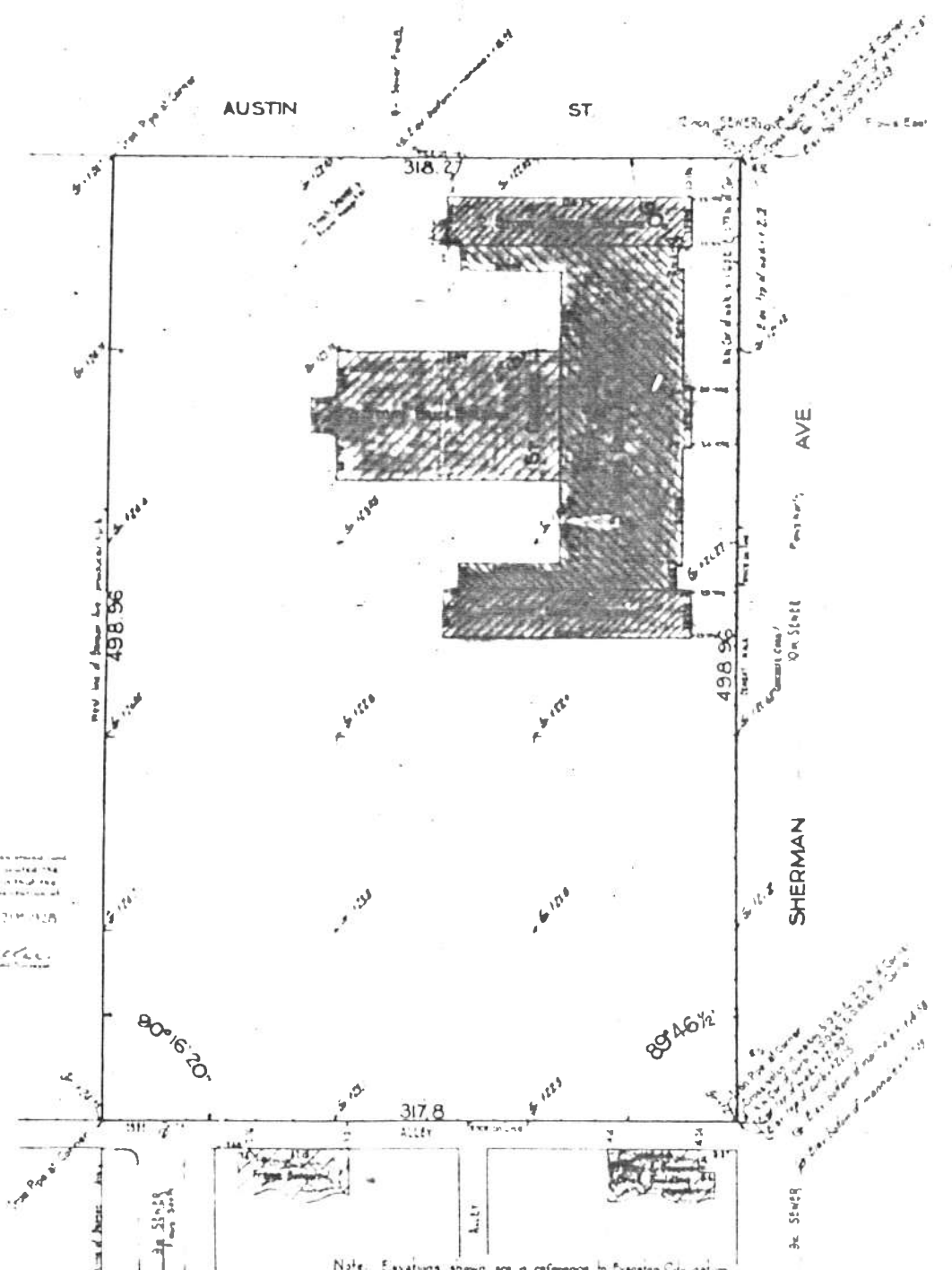
³Ibid.

Service Surveying & Engineering Company

1220 ENGINEERING BUILDING
205 W. WACKER DRIVE - CHICAGO
TELEPHONE STATE 4894

PLAT OF SURVEY

described as beginning at a point on a line 400.42 ft. S. of and parallel to the N. line of said Section 30 and 15.0 ft. W. of the E. line of the N.W. 1/4 of said Section 30, point of beginning being the S.W. corner of Sherman Ave. & Austin St., thence S. on a line 10.0 ft. W. of and parallel to said E. line of the N.W. 1/4, being the W. line of Sherman Ave., 498.96 ft., thence N. on a line 365.84 ft. S. of and parallel to said N. line of Section 30, thence the N. line of Austin St., 317.80 ft., to the N. line of Benson Ave., thence E. on said N. line of Street produced N. 498.96 ft. to a point, 400.42 ft. S. of said N. line of Section 30, thence E. (being the S. line of Austin St.), 318.27 ft. to the place of beginning.
(Also known as the W. 318 ft. of the E. 600 ft. of Lot 2 in (County Clerk's Division of (Unsub- divided lands in N.W. 1/4 Section 30, T. 41 N., R. 1 E. of the 3rd PM)



Surveyed August 21st 1928
C. H. Miller
Surveyor

Note: Elevations shown are in reference to Evanston City datum.
There are no established drains in Evanston, curbs and
walks being used as found.

NOTICE
COMPLAINTS TO BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

Book 212-2360-2046
CATHOLIC BISHOP OF CHICAGO
Witnessed by W. M. L. 40844

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF COOK
I, C. H. Miller, Surveyor
do hereby certify that I have surveyed the above
described premises and that the same are
correctly represented on this plat.

In the event that the City of Evanston shall commence condemnation proceedings or request the purchaser to open said street, the said purchaser will donate said strip of land, viz.: sixty (60) feet to the City of Evanston without any expense whatsoever to the seller St. Francis Hospital herein. If the seller should find it necessary to have the street opened before the City of Evanston takes any action regarding the opening of said street, in that event the purchaser will quit-claim to the City of Evanston, without expense to said seller, the said strip of land of sixty (60) feet from the alley on the South running North to Austin Street, and both parties hereto will pay their pro rata share of all improvements to be made for sidewalk, sewer, water, street improvements, etc.¹

The control reserved to the hospital over this sixty feet was deemed a necessary and equitable provision to protect the institution in case a situation might arise which would make the opening of a street to the rear of the hospital necessary. Reference to this clause will be made later in speaking of the plans for a faculty residence.²

That a site at the southern end of Evanston was finally chosen seems to have been due to the influence of Monsignor Biermann.³ Father Smyth had preferred a location in North

¹Agreement between the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration of the State of Illinois and the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, Feb. 1, 1927.

²Cf. Chapter VI. p. 90.

³Pictures of this priest agree with descriptions given by those who knew him that he was what is often inaccurately called "typically German"--stolid, even stupid-looking. That such an appearance belied his actual worth is attested by the fact that besides his previously-mentioned function of archdiocesan consultor, he was also one of the archdiocesan censors of books. He was universally respected, esteemed, and loved (Statement by Rev. William J. Mockenhaupt, pastor of St. Nicholas Church, November 29, 1952; also concurred in by Brother Hector Vincent, August 25, 1952.

Evanston or even beyond that.¹

Once legal title to the property had been acquired, events began to move swiftly, February 15, 1927, or one month and four days later, the ceremony of ground-breaking took place.² Previously Joseph McCarthy, K.S.G.,³ had been commissioned by Cardinal Mundelein to draw up plans for the school building.⁴ In this work he consulted⁵ with Brother Elzear and with Brother Justus Mark, who had had considerable experience previously in designing school buildings suitable to the educational purposes envisioned by the Christian Brothers.⁶ The plans as drawn up by this committee were submitted and approved both by the archdiocese and by the provincial council of the Christian Brothers.⁷ It is

¹Statement by Rev. William J. Mockenhaupt, personal interview, November 29, 1952.

²Souvenir Program of the Dedication, p. 21.

³This architect had attended a grade school in New York conducted by the Christian Brothers. He finished 8th grade at Holy Innocents on 37th Street, west of Broadway, in the year 1897. The school is now defunct (Statement by Joseph McCarthy, Personal Interview, July 21, 1952).

⁴The final set of blue-prints was issued Dec. 29, 1926 and revised on Jan. 22, 1927 (Ref. No. 101, Joseph W. McCarthy, architect). Research in the school files has unearthed no other set of blue-prints.

⁵Statement by Brother Leopold, personal interview, Aug. 7, 1951. Mr. McCarthy in the interview referred to above could recall only Brother Elzear. Brother Justus, however, by reason of his experience in the construction of St. Mel High School, played an important advisory role.

⁶Ibid. Also cf. Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C. ed., op. cit., pp. 74, 152.

⁷This is verified in statements made by Brother Leopold and by Mr. McCarthy in the interviews referred to above.

significant that the architect and the Cardinal advised the Brothers that they could have incorporated into the school structure either a swimming pool or an auditorium but not both.¹

Brother Elzear's opinion, the one which finally prevailed, urged that a swimming pool be put in so that the new school would not be deficient in this regard as compared to Loyola Academy.²

The original plans also called for a gabled roof, and virtually all the pictures which appeared shortly before the opening of the school showed this gabled roof because they were copies of the architect's original drawing. In the interests of economy, however, both the archdiocese and the Brothers agreed to a flat roof instead.³

"The W.J. Lynch Company had charge of the work of construction."⁴ In a letter received from this company the following specifications and comment are stated:

Contents in Cubic feet: 1,360,000 (including
Brothers' quarters)

Cost: \$586,273 (not including Architect's Fee,
Desks and Furnishings)
Cost per cu. ft. : 43.18¢

¹Ibid.

²Statement by Brother Leopold, personal interview, August 7, 1951; also concurred in by Mr. Joseph McCarthy, July 21, 1952.

³Ibid.

⁴Souvenir Program for the Dedication, p. 21.

Basic Labor Rate: Bricklayers - \$1.62½ per hr.
 Carpenters - \$1.50 " "
 Laborer - \$0.90 " "

It is interesting, though not particularly pleasant, to consider that this same building today would cost at least \$1,500,000.¹

In line with the estimate in the last paragraph was the statement by the assessors for the insurance company in 1947. They stated that it would cost \$900,000 to build such a 20-year-old building. In other words, their estimate allowed for the deterioration of twenty years--at 1947 prices.²

The New World in describing the external appearance of the building stated that it

....will be three stories with a front of 230 feet and a depth of 176 feet. It will accommodate 1,000 boys and will be completed for September, 1927.³

The following commentary about the student capacity of Saint George is worthy of mention at this juncture:

At that time our chief concern was to provide high school facilities for the Northwest Side. We sought and obtained the viewpoints of the neighboring pastors on the need for such a school. Their sentiments were that a school with a capacity of 300 would suffice. I recall arguing for the need of a school to take care of 1,000 boys. Some of the pastors had some misgivings about building so large a school but they agreed that it would certainly be necessary in the distant future.

¹Letter from W.J. Lynch, Jr., of the W.J. Lynch Company, 1 North La Salle Street, Chicago, July 8, 1952.

²Statement by Brother Julius Edgar, personal interview, October 23, 1952.

³New World, February 4, 1927, p. 1.

I must say that in the final analysis the pastors cooperated with the decision of the Chancery and contributed generously toward the financing of the project.¹

However one may define the "distant future," the present generation can only be thankful that a building was erected capable of taking care of 1000 boys.

In the same article referred to above, the New World described the building as of "colonial style of architecture finished in red brick with Bedford stone trimming....The cost will be \$600,000."² The colonial style of architecture was chosen because it was neat, economical, and was one manifestation of the classic style popular at that time.³

The work progressed rapidly on the building. A series of twenty-three photographs indicates very clearly the various stages. The ground-breaking ceremony took place, on February 15, 1927.⁴ The first two pictures on February 23 show the forms constructed for the foundation of the north wing and the excavations for the south wing completed. The picture dated March 9 shows the foundations for these two wings completed and excavations being made for the swimming pool area.

¹ Letter from His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edward F. Hoban, Archbishop-Bishop of Cleveland, August 14, 1952.

² New World, February 4, 1927, p. 1.

³ Statement by Joseph McCarthy, personal interview, July 21, 1952.

⁴ Cf. p. 19.

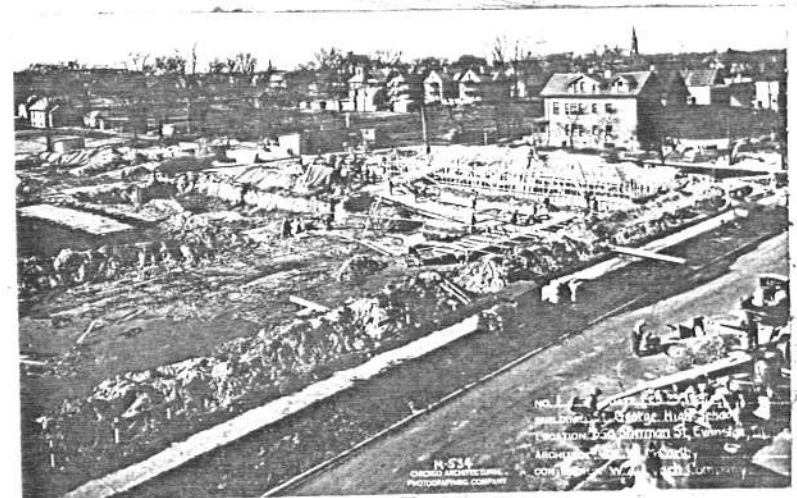


Fig. 3--Feb. 23, 1927



Fig. 4--Feb. 23, 1927

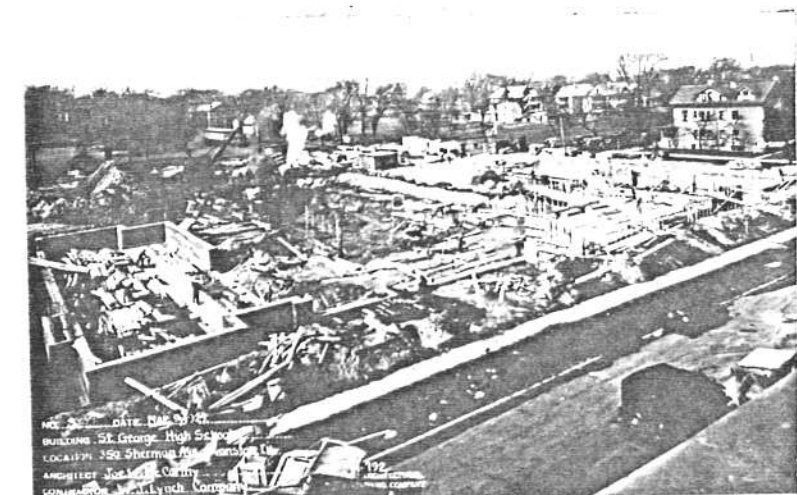


Fig. 5--Mar. 9, 1927

NO. 527 DATE MAR 9 1927
 BUILDING St. George High School
 LOCATION 150 Sherman St. Chicago, Ill.
 ARCHITECT Joseph C. Quinn
 CONTRACTOR J. J. Lynch Company



Fig. 6--Mar. 23, 1927

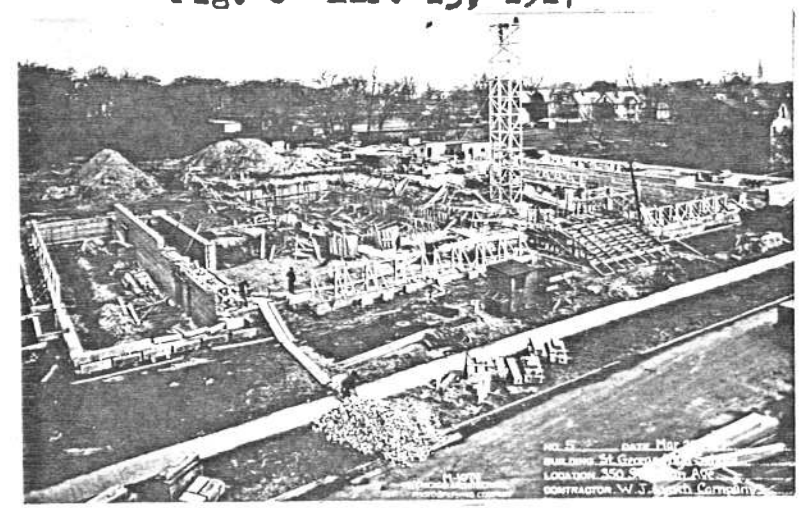


Fig. 7--Mar. 23, 1927



Fig. 8--Apr. 6, 1927

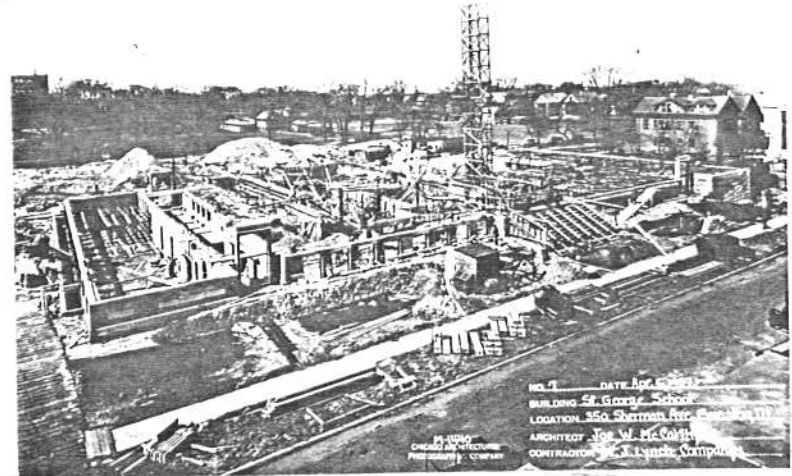


Fig. 9--Apr. 6, 1927



Fig. 10--Apr. 22, 1927

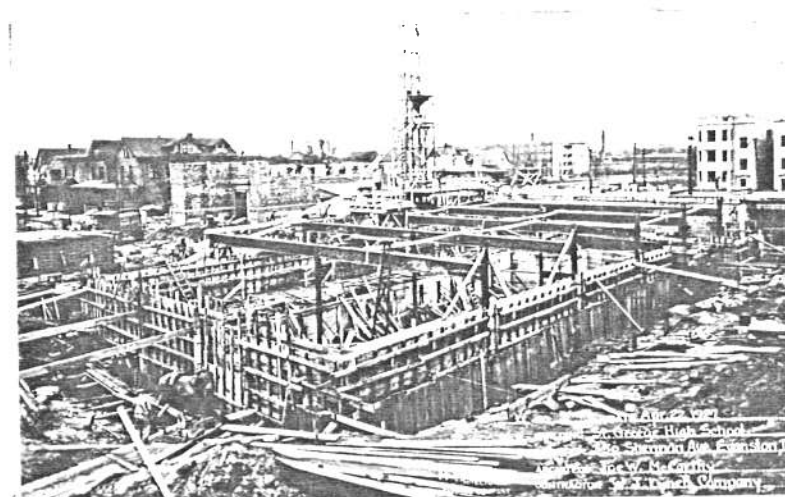


Fig. 11--Apr. 22, 1927

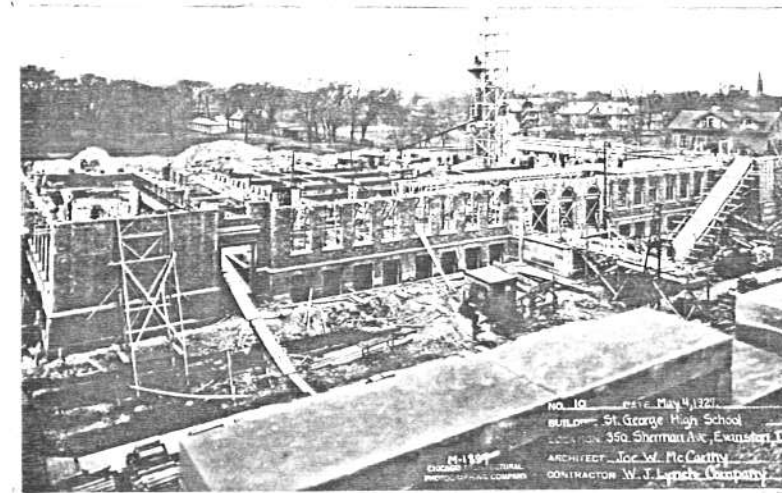


Fig. 12--May 4, 1927

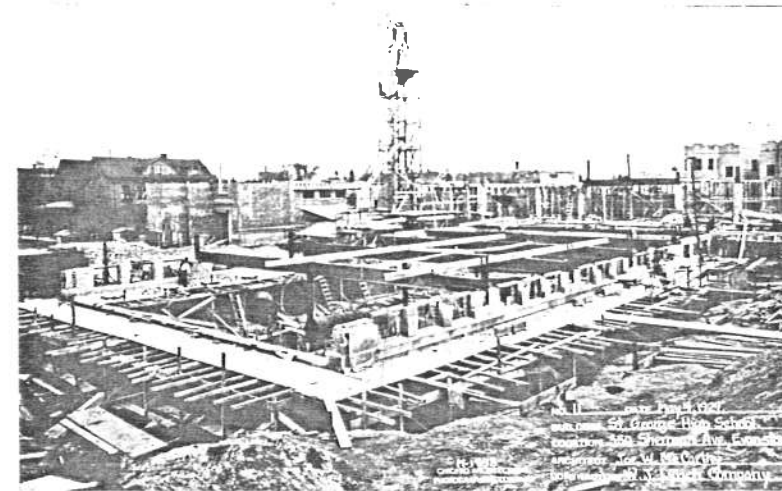


Fig. 13--May 4, 1927

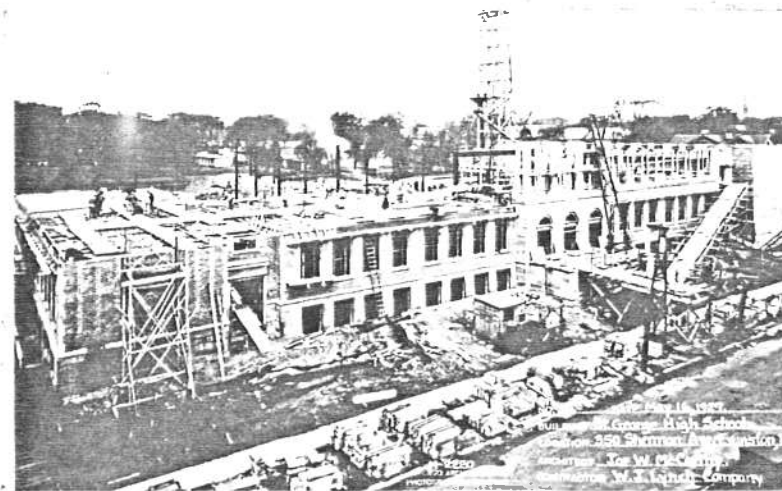


Fig. 14--May 16, 1927

No. 10
 Date: May 4, 1927
 Subject: St. George High School
 Location: 350 Sherman Ave., Easton, Md.
 Architect: J. W. McCarty
 Contractor: W. J. Lynch Company

No. 11
 Date: May 4, 1927
 Subject: St. George High School
 Location: 350 Sherman Ave., Easton, Md.
 Architect: J. W. McCarty
 Contractor: W. J. Lynch Company

No. 12
 Date: May 16, 1927
 Subject: St. George High School
 Location: 350 Sherman Ave., Easton, Md.
 Architect: J. W. McCarty
 Contractor: W. J. Lynch Company

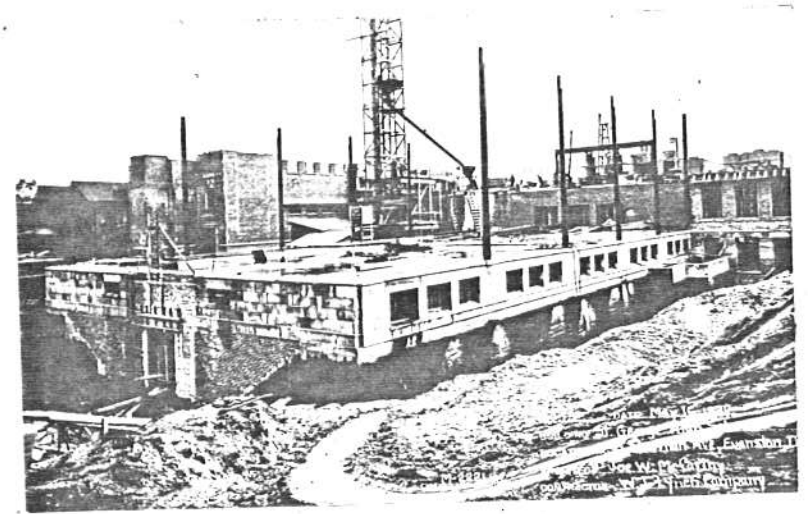


Fig. 15--May 16, 1927

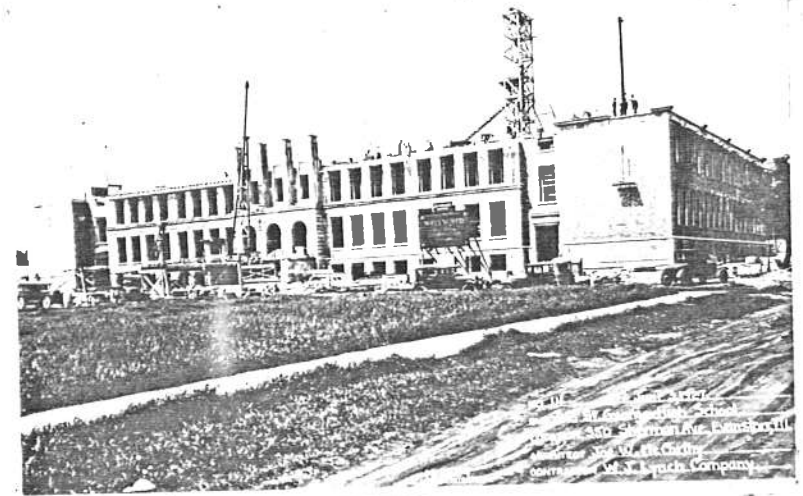


Fig. 16--June 3, 1927

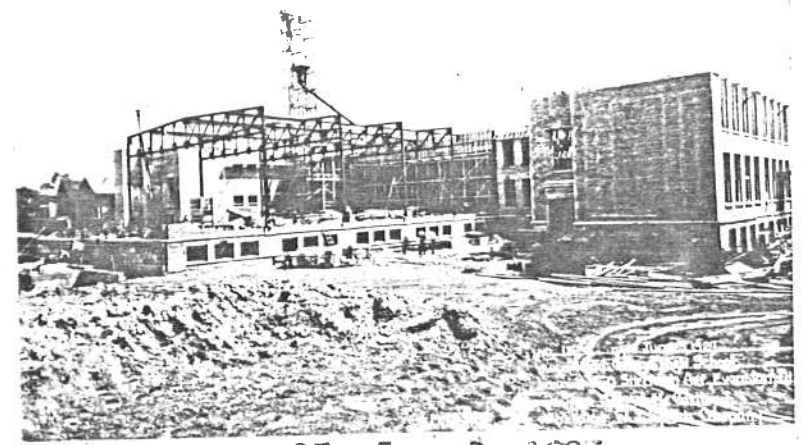


Fig. 17--June 3, 1927

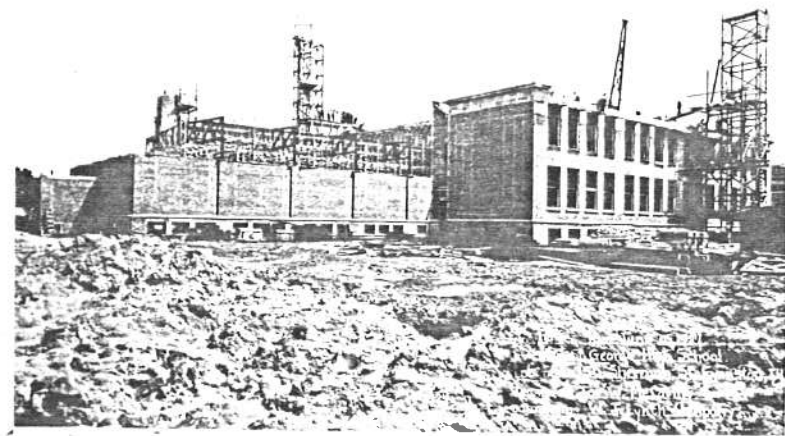


Fig. 18--June 15, 1927



Fig. 19--June 15, 1927



Fig. 20--July 1, 1927

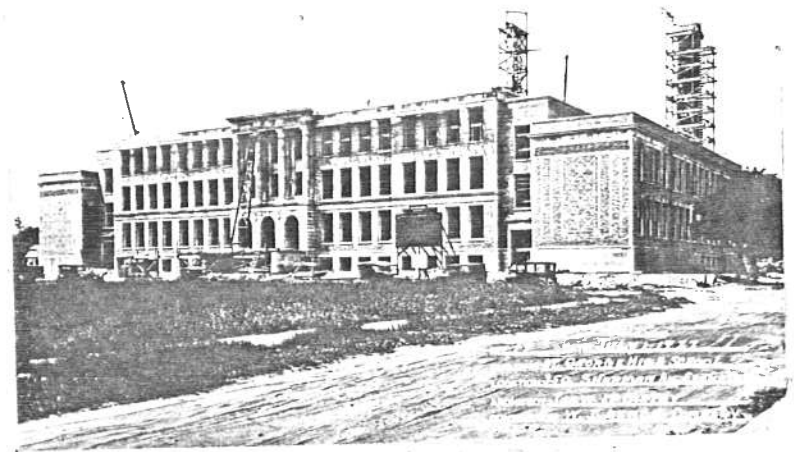


Fig. 21--July 1, 1927



Fig. 22--July 13, 1927

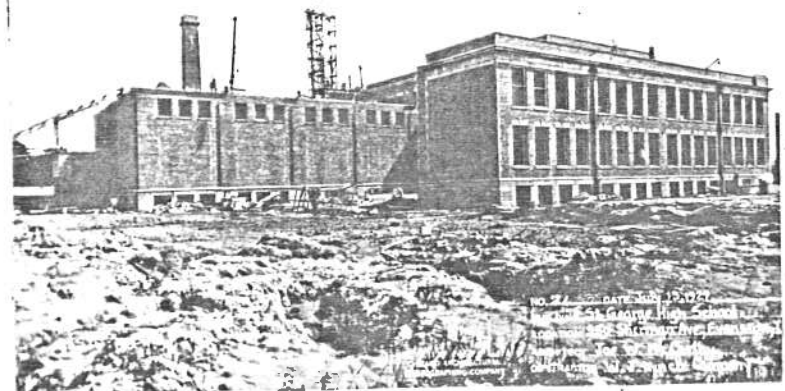


Fig. 23--July 13, 1927

NO. 21 DATE July 13, 1927
BUILDING St. George High School
LOCATION 250 Sherman Ave., Easton, N.J.
ARCHITECT Geo. W. McVey
CONTRACTOR W.A. Lynch Company

NO. 22 DATE July 13, 1927
BUILDING St. George High School
LOCATION 250 Sherman Ave., Easton, N.J.
ARCHITECT Geo. W. McVey
CONTRACTOR W.A. Lynch Company

NO. 23 DATE July 13, 1927
BUILDING St. George High School
LOCATION 250 Sherman Ave., Easton, N.J.
ARCHITECT Geo. W. McVey
CONTRACTOR W.A. Lynch Company

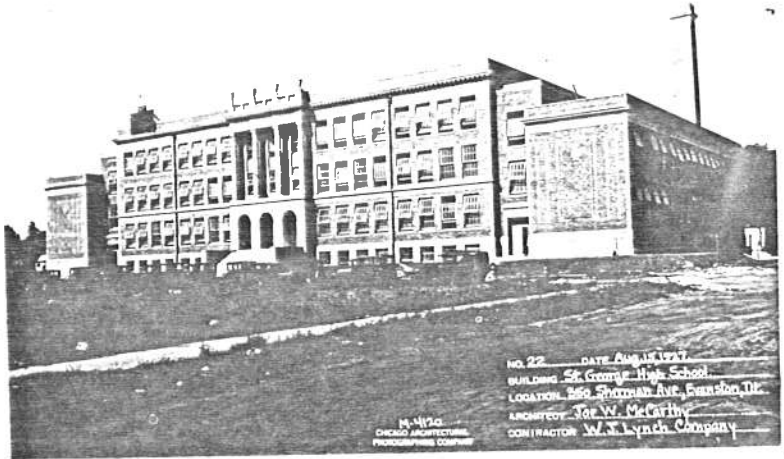


Fig. 24--Aug. 15, 1927



Fig. 25--Aug. 15, 1927

By April 22 the first floor level had been reached for the south wing and the main or east section of the building. The steel beams to support the swimming pool ceiling were in place and the walls of the north wing were almost at the second story level.

By May 16 the south wing and east section were at the second story level, the upright steel supports for the gymnasium roof were in place, and the north wing was approaching completion. June 15 reveals a virtually completed north and south wing; work on the roof of the east section and on the gymnasium was going right along, the crosswise steel girders for the roof of the latter being already in place.

August 15 finally shows a completed school building with only the finishing touches to be added before the commencement of the school term.¹

Provided that the superlatives in the dedication booklet are accepted with a certain reserve, it gives a clear and detailed idea of the interior of the school.

....Large, airy, and lightsome, this three-story structure contains thirty classrooms and was built to accommodate one thousand students. There are 3,000 square feet of floor space in the library, 4,500 square feet in the cafeteria, and 9,000 square feet in the gymnasium. Rubber-stone flooring has been used throughout, except in the gymnasium.

The classrooms are provided with pedestal desks for the pupils and with steel desks for the teachers. Austral windows take care of the problem of adequate and safe ventilation. The Pax telephone system connects

¹This series of photographs was taken by the Chicago Architectural Photographing Company. They were reduced to the present size by the Vincent Price Studio of St. Louis, Missouri.

the various classrooms with one another and with the office. The Standard system of synchronized classroom clocks is controlled by the master clock in the office. Bakelite electrical fixtures have been used in the classrooms and throughout the entire building. The Graybar speaking system, appearing here for the first time in any high school in the country, has been installed in every classroom. This system enables the principal to speak from his office to the entire student body. Radio lectures and programs can be relayed to every room in the building.

The three laboratories are fully provided with the most modern apparatus for Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. The library has been equipped with steel stacks and Ducharme tables. In the Cafeteria, where the Levant fixed seating arrangement has been installed, four hundred students may be served at one time.

....The gymnasium, 78 feet by 128 feet, in which the Bloxonend floor, Sani-onyx backboards for basketball, and the Graybar loud speakers are features, solves the problem of physical development and recreation in inclement weather. Locker rooms and shower rooms are below the gymnasium.

A tiled swimming pool, 24 feet by 60 feet, with water ranging in depth from four feet to ten, has also been provided. The March system of chlorination which has been installed for purifying the pool is another of the many unique features which go to make Saint George the last word in modern high school construction.¹

A current article in the local newspaper adds to the description above the following items: The structure is E-shaped for maximum window space. A new horn system for calling and dismissing classes has been installed. The advantages attributed to the "bloxonend" floor in the gymnasium are a greater resiliency and greater resistance to splintering. The lobby of the school, the writer says, has a marble floor, is done in light woodwork, and is lighted by "attractively-rounded gilded lights." The arrangement of rooms on the second floor calls for science

¹Souvenir program of dedication, pp. 23, 24.

laboratories in the north wing, classrooms in the central part of the building, and living quarters for the Brothers in the south wing.¹

This newspaper article differs from the previously-quoted description in the *New World*.² The writer in the Evanston paper states that the external facing of the building has bricks which are "light" in color. Very solemnly he refers to the swimming pool as a "tank room." Finally he mentions that the special wood flooring in the gymnasium had been installed in only two other schools in the country.³

The installation of the "austral" windows was also in the nature of an experiment. Evidence has accumulated which indicates that the experiment has not been an unmixed blessing. They did not allow for the installation of screens during the summer months. Since the Brothers during the first ten years of the school's existence occupied rooms in the school building for residence purposes, their only protection from insects during the summer was mosquito netting over their beds.⁴ Another defect that was noted during the winter months arose from the fact that snow, first melting and then freezing at the central

¹Evanston Review, September 22, 1927, p. 13.

²Cf. p. 22.

³Evanston Review, Sept. 22, 1927, p. 13.

⁴Memorandum to Cardinal Mundelein requesting consideration of a residence for the Christian Brothers of St. George, September 1929.

points of division, made it next to impossible if not actually so to open the windows.¹ Advantages, however, are to be found in the efficient ventilation they afford. The simultaneous presence of fresh air and the avoidance of drafts are no mean benefits. During a driving rainstorm, also, they keep out the rain while letting in the air.²

¹Statement by Brother Jerome De La Salle, personal interview, July 1, 1952.

²Statement by Brother Julius Edgar, personal interview, December 9, 1952. Brother Julius mentioned that Fontbonne College in St. Louis is equipped with the same type of window. Inquiry there revealed that they were quite satisfied with such windows. It seems that the generally milder climate of St. Louis would remove the obstacle encountered during winter as mentioned above (Statement by Mr. Vincent Flassmeyer, superintendent of buildings at Fontbonne College, personal interview, December 13, 1952).

CHAPTER II

DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING

The calendar of events for the coming week as given in the Evanston News-Index for Saturday, October 29, 1927, lists the following item:

Sunday, 3:30 P.M. Dedication services, St. George High School, 350 Sherman Avenue, Evanston. Dedication, His Eminence, George Cardinal Mundelein.¹

The reporter for the St. George News has left a very detailed account of the proceedings on that day:

....Promptly at three o'clock the Cardinal's car, having passed through an assemblage of the students wearing blue and white skull caps and a tie of the same colors and holding in their hands a pennant attached to a cane, drew up to the curb. The De La Salle Band was present to add festivity to the occasion by playing Marche Pontificale.

On leaving his car, the Cardinal's picture, as well as the picture of the Director, Brother Mizear, was taken by an Evanston Review photographer. The Cardinal then proceeded up the steps of the school between two lines of students. Thence he went to the chapel where he donned his robes and chanted, in unison with several priests, the prayers of dedication. Then the Cardinal was handed his crosier and mitre after which he proceeded down to the first floor. With him were fifty or more priests, several Franciscans, Passionists and Augustinians being among them. Eleven altar-boys in red cassocks and white surplices also composed part of the attendants that accompanied the Cardinal, in his tour of dedication. As he passed through the main corridor the Cardinal blessed the classrooms, sprinkling holy water into each. On coming to the main lobby, a flashlight picture was taken of the Cardinal and the procession. The clergy then went out on the front steps where a

¹Evanston News-Index, October 29, 1927, p. 10.

third picture was taken of the Cardinal. From here the entire party went through the lobby again and after passing through the main corridor stopped in the library. Here a large crucifix was blessed with special ceremony and then put in place by His Eminence. The procession now wended its way to the second floor, the blessings of the various rooms proceeding as before. The third floor was blessed and then His Eminence and clergy went to the balcony of the gymnasium where the program of the afternoon was in progress.¹

The account given above needs correction as to a few technical details required by the rubrics. Thus it has been pointed out that His Eminence donned "vestments" in the school chapel and not "robes" since he was already robed.² Then he went as prescribed by the rubrics to the main entrance of the school.

There the singing of the Asperges was followed by the blessing of the outer walls of the building. The cortege then entered the school after reciting the words "Peace be to this house and to all that dwell therein." They proceeded as is mentioned in the school paper to the school library where a large crucifix was blessed very solemnly and then put in place.³ After praying for all who would make use of the building, students, faculty, and all others connected with the school, His Eminence then went

¹ St. George News, November 18, 1927, p. 1.

² Statement by Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph F. Morrison, Personal Interview, December 27, 1952. Monsignor Morrison was the master of ceremonies on this occasion (Souvenir Program, p. 12). He is now pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Highland Park in which capacity he has had fairly close relations with the school.

³ Rituale Romanum, Pauli V Pontificis Maximi jussu editum, "Alia Benedictio Domus Scholaris," (Rome: Marietti, 1926) pp. 480-487.

in procession to each of the classrooms and gave them a simple blessing with holy water.¹

Among the notables present besides the Cardinal were the two priests most immediately responsible for the erection of the school: Monsignor Biermann, pastor of Saint Nicholas Church, and Father Smyth, pastor of Saint Mary's Church; the Honorable Horace D. Bent, acting Mayor of Evanston, who delivered the address of welcome; Raymond McKeogh, a graduate of De La Salle Institute in Chicago, and prominent in public life; Miss Bernardine Lamhear, an eleven-year-old voice student of Dr. J. Lewis Browne, famed composer and organist at old Saint Patrick's Church near downtown Chicago; finally, a group known as Monahan's Quartette.²

The name of the school was chosen at the suggestion of Bishop Hoban who thus wished to give honor to Cardinal Mundelein's baptismal patron.³ In addition the founders considered it quite appropriate as a name for a boys' high school since "this martyr of early Christendom is honored and revered, not only

¹ Interview by Monsignor Morrison.

² Souvenir Program, p. 12.

³ Statement by Brother Leopold, Personal Interview, August 7, 1951.

In England, but throughout the entire world, as an inspiring model of saintly Christian manhood."¹

The Evanston Review carried the following editorial comment on the dedication:

St. George's High School is a welcomed addition to Evanston's school facilities, as those who visited it Sunday, dedication day, will agree. It was built according to a plan which has spared no pains and little expense in order to bring about the ideal development of its students. The fact that the school will spend four years in building up its student body is one evidence of its thorough-going manner. St. George's should somewhat relieve the strain on our over-taxed public high school.²

¹ Souvenir Program, p. 6. A rather interesting sidelight shows Cardinal Mundelein's enthusiasm for the name George. When a statue to that Saint was erected at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, no suitable Latin inscription could be found. His Eminence then coined the following motto which was duly inscribed thereon: "Athleta nobilis Christi." In fact he did not consider it beneath his dignity to accept the title of National Chaplain to an organization composed of prominent men whose first names were George. This group had the resounding title of "The National Organization for the Prevention of Calling Railroad Porters George," and it was headed at that time by none other than George M. Cohan (Statement by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Morrison, Personal Interview, December 27, 1955).

² Evanston Review, October 3, 1927.

CHAPTER III

THE ELZEAR ERA

"When Saint George High School opened with 152 students on September 12, 1927, it consisted of four freshman classes.¹ The faculty comprised Brothers Justinus Elzear as director, Hermes Michael, Josephus Bertram, and Joachim Michael,² plus an athletic director, Mr. William E. Maher.³

TABLE 1

COMPLETE ROSTER OF THE BROTHERS DIRECTORS OF SAINT GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL FROM 1927 to 1952⁴

<u>Brothers</u>	<u>Superiorship</u>
Justinus Elzear (John Zankl)	1927-1933
Lawrence David (Fabian Bicket)	1933-1939
Hilary Bernard (Leo Murphy)	1939-1942
Ignatius Patrick (James Hayes)	1942-1945
Julius Edgar (Francis Winkler)	1945-1950
Jerome De La Salle (Vincent Beck) ⁵	1950-1952
Jude Aloysius (James Cantwell)	1952

¹Hubert Gerard, Brother F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 162.

²Brother Joachim Michael (Emmett Duffy) was responsible for the choice of the school colors, blue and white. Sickness, unfortunately, caused his withdrawal in 1928 (Statement by Brother Honorius Edward, his blood brother, Personal Interview, August 27, 1952).

³Nicknamed "Red" and "Snakey Hips," he was a graduate of Notre Dame in 1924. Before coming to Saint George he had been a coach at St. Charles College in Helena, Montana, and at Center College, Kentucky (Evanson Review, September 22, 1927, p. 13).

⁴Community Register, Numbers 1, 43, 77, 105, 107, 125, 211

⁵Brother Jerome resigned in 1952 in order to volunteer his services at De La Salle College, Manila, a mission school supported by the American provinces of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Community History, 1952).

A study of the table reveals the significant information that the two longest terms so far accounted for the administration of the school during its first twelve years. By mere weight of years, therefore, the influence of these two men should have had great weight in setting the tone and character of the school.

There were many reasons motivating the choice of Brother Elzear as the first director. Previous successful experience at Cretin High School in St. Paul and at De La Salle High School on Chicago's South Side was one factor.¹ Cardinal Mundelein, moreover, knew him and liked him.² He has been described as a man of "brilliant personality, dynamic energy, and great ideas."³ Such a selection then, would seem to have been dictated by prudence.

The curriculum drawn up at that time and as arranged in schematic form below emphasized as was current at that time in Catholic schools,⁴ the so-called "academic" subjects:

¹Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed. op. cit., pp. 148, 188.

²Statement by Brother Leopold, Personal Interview, August 7, 1951.

³Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 162.

⁴Mang, Brother William, C.S.C., The Curriculum of the Catholic High School for Boys (Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Maria Press, 1941), p. 11.

GENERAL COURSE

<u>Freshmen</u>	<u>Sophomores</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Seniors</u>
Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
English	English	English	English
Algebra	Plane Geometry	Advanced Algebra	Trigonometry
Civics or Ancient History	Biology or Modern History	Solid Geometry	American History
Latin	Latin	Physics	Chemistry
		Latin or Greek	Latin or Greek

COMMERCIAL COURSE

Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
English	English	English	English
Algebra	Plane Geometry	Bookkeeping	Commercial
Civics or Ancient History	Biology or Modern History	Typewriting	Law
Latin	Latin	Shorthand	Typewriting
		American History	Shorthand Economics ¹

There is no evidence, however, either on the credit records or other documents that Greek was ever taught during those first years.²

Additions and revisions of this prospectus occurred during these years. In September 1930 Business Arithmetic was added.³ French, German, and Spanish were all taught for the first time in the year 1931. Economics made its appearance in 1930.⁴

¹"Information concerning St. George High School" (prospectus published privately by Saint George High School: 1927), p.2.

²Confirmation of this was offered by Brother Hector Vincent (Personal Interview, December 27, 1952).

³Annual Report to the University of Illinois and to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the School Year 1930-31. (This document is kept on file in the records office at school).

⁴Ibid., 1930-31.

Subjects which at that time were considered extra-curricular also were gradually introduced. Mechanical Drawing, so listed in 1929, was the first of these.¹ Its extra-curricular status seems to have resulted from a decision to experiment with it in this way for the first year.² An enthusiastic response to this offering was the result of this experiment as can be adduced by the fact that in the following year it was placed in the regular curriculum.³ As such it has continued down to the present day.

Public Speaking was also first offered as an extra-curricular subject simultaneously with Mechanical Drawing.⁴ Its eventual inclusion as part of the curriculum, however, did not occur until September of 1946.⁵

The "dynamic energy" of Brother Elzear was shown in the organization of a student group to further interest in the missionary work of the Catholic Church. On October 7, 1927, five student representatives attended a meeting of the Catholic

¹The Georgian, November 27, 1929, p. 1.

²Statement by Brother Octavien Joan, personal interview. July 31, 1952. Brother Jean was one of several thousand Christian Brothers expatriated from France in 1904. As part of his schooling he had received intensive training in mechanical drawing (cf. Hubert Gerard, Brother F.S.C., ed. op cit., p. 281).

³Annual Report...1930-31.

⁴Cf. footnote 3, p. 41.

⁵Ibid., 1946-47.

Students' Mission Crusade at the Holy Name Cathedral.¹ That this was not a mere empty gesture is proved by another news item telling of the contest in the various classes for the Mission Crusade banner to be awarded at the end of the month (October) to the class with the largest amount contributed to the support of the mission.²

In his efforts to interest parents in the work of the school Brother Elzear almost immediately thought of organizing such a group. These thoughts became concrete in the Mothers' Club, whose first meeting was held "at the school on Tuesday, October 18."³ This group has since that date led a continuous and vigorous life as can be shown by perusal of the minutes of the meetings contained in six volumes totaling some 850 pages.⁴

An organization to provide for the Fathers took shape in the spring of the school year of 1927-28.

Last Monday, March 12, 1928, the Fathers' Club of St. George held their second meeting. The meeting was held expressly for the purpose of making final arrangements for the big Tournament which is now being held here at St. George

¹ St. George News, October 28, 1927, p. 1.

² Ibid., October 28, 1927, p. 4.

³ Ibid., October 28, 1927, p. 4.

⁴ "Minutes of the Meetings of the Mothers' Club of St. George High School," (kept in the files of the Mothers' Club at the school).

The importance of this tournament necessitated the election of permanent officers for the school year.

Those elected are as follows:

President	Mr. E. Bell
Vice-President.....	Mr. A. Wilkins
Secretary.....	Mr. C. Kohl
Treasurer	Mr. D. Conway ¹
Sgt. of Arms.....	Mr. G. Foss ¹

As the constitution of the club states,

...the Fathers' Club has one important objective; to promote mutual understanding between the parents of students and the Faculty, and to help provide needed athletic, educational and other equipment for the use of all the students of the school.²

Although the Fathers' Club has not enjoyed the continuity of existence that has been found in the Mothers' Club, it has managed to perform many useful functions in keeping with its constitution. It has particularly cooperated with the Mothers' Club in sponsoring during the fall a fund-raising program entitled "The Ma-Pa Festival."³ Also in conjunction with the Mothers, they have helped considerably in the planning and completion of the Nazareth Conference since the inception of that project in 1949.⁴

¹St. George News, March 16, 1928, p. 1.

²Saint George High School, Students Handbook, 1952-53, p. 59.

³Ibid., p. 59.

⁴Cr. p. 96.

TABLE 2

COMPLETE ROSTER OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE
SAINT GEORGE MOTHERS' CLUB FROM 1927 TO 1952¹

<u>Presidents</u>	<u>Term begun in September</u>
Mrs. Mae Rose ²	1927
Mrs. C.V. Stier	1929
Mrs. C.M. Healy	1930
Mrs. Josephine Roche	1931
Mrs. Albert J. Smith	1932
Mrs. Albert J. Grossman	1933
Mrs. Helen Keisler	1934
Mrs. Jas. J. Duffy	1936
Mrs. Helen Keisler	1937
Mrs. William N. Sheridan, Jr.	1938
Mrs. William F. Fitzgerald	1941
Mrs. Thomas C. Small	1942
Mrs. Bernard T. Kamins	1944
Mrs. Leonard E. White	1946
Mrs. Samuel Martin, Jr.	1947
Mrs. Carleton Healy	1948
Mrs. William A. Pearson	1949
Mrs. Arthur L. Luxem	1950
Mrs. Blair Varnes	1951

¹This table was compiled from the Minutes of the meetings of the Saint George High School Mothers' Club.

²Mrs. Rose died just before Christmas of 1952 (letter from Mrs. Blair Varnes, January 21, 1953). Other past presidents deceased are Mrs. Roche and Mrs. Keisler (Year Book, 1949-1950, Mothers' Club of St. George High School, p. 3).

TABLE 3

ROSTER OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE
SAINT GEORGE FATHERS' CLUB FROM 1927 to 1952¹

<u>Presidents</u>	<u>Term begun in September</u>
Edw. W. Bell	1928 ²
Fred Le Tourneau	1932
John Hackett	1937 ³
Bart Burns	1938
Fred Graebert	1939
Wm. Corr	1940
T.E. Lecture	1941
Charles O'Donnell	1942 ⁴
Bert Howe	1945
John Kielty	1946
John O'Leary	1948
William Fleming	1949
Harold Smith	1950
James Wing	1951
William Brogan	1952

¹Data for this table were obtained by Mr. Howe and Brother Laurence Matthias, faculty moderator of the Fathers' Club during the school year 1952-53. (letter from Brother Lawrence Matthias, March 28, 1953).

²Mr. Bell's term began as noted above in March of 1928.

³There are no records available for the years 1933 to 1937. (Letter from Brother Laurence Matthias, March 28, 1953).

⁴The Fathers' Club ceased to function from June of 1943 until September of 1945. (Letter from Brother Laurence Matthias previously cited).

October 28, 1927, Friday, marked the appearance of the first issue of the St. George News, the school newspaper. Its life has been a varied and interesting one, even though it is a bibliographer's nightmare. It existed under the title, St. George News from the date above until the second issue of the year 1928-29. From that time until the end of the school year 1939-40 its title was The Georgian. January 1941 marked the commencement of a new series called The Dragon. Until September of 1945 it appeared most of the time in mimeographed form occasionally planographed. From September of 1945 continuously to the present day it has been printed.

From 1933 to 1939 the paper suspended publication. This lapse is explained mainly on the grounds of economy.¹

Brother Elzear's years at De La Salle had shown him the value of a musical organization such as the band there.² He had brought along with him to Saint George, a De La Salle graduate and former band member named Nicholas Talarico who was his office manager. In addition he had always greatly admired Mr. Albert Cook, the Director of the De La Salle band. Consequently the following statement in the school paper hardly comes as a surprise:

"A band is being organized by Brother Elzear, who has the aid of Nick Talarico our office manager. Sixty boys have already volunteered."³

¹Statement by Brother Hector Vincent, Personal Interview, December 27, 1952. Cf. also the annual reports to the University of Illinois.

²Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 145.

³St. George News, October 28, 1927, p. 4.

Brother Elzear obtained the services of the aforementioned Mr. Cook as band master and within two years the organization had reached a level of achievement that saw it take second place only to the De La Salle Band in the Archdiobesan Band contests.¹

Energetic furtherance of public speaking and dramatics was another outstanding characteristic of the administration of Brother Elzear. The successes of students from Saint George in the field of speech are hereinafter summarized:

Since the St. George Debating Club was formed three years ago under the direction of Mr. R.J. Seitz, its career has been of exceptional merit. Beginning with its first opponent and continuing through to its thirty-eighth, the team was completely victorious. For the third time this year [1933], after Mr. Carl B. Klein had taken over the reins of the organization, the Catholic League championship of Chicago came to the St. George debaters. Having entered the National Forensic Contest, after three years of nothing but victories, the club finally met its equal, in the semi-finals of a gruelling contest... Roland Klinge, Frank Czar, Gerard Bregenzer, and Richard Pratt were the mainstays of this year's club; that their work was of exceptional nature is evidenced by the number of wholly successful campaigns in which they participated.²

James Burke and Bernard Hochstetter of the 1932 graduating class won first places in extemporaneous speaking and in oratory respectively in the state oratorical contest held at Saint Viator's College, Bourbonnais, Illinois, May 5, 1932.³ Gerard Bregenzer '33 took a second place in dramatic reading.⁴

¹The Georgian, June 6, 1930, p. 1.

²Saint George High School, 1933 Souvenir Dragon, (no pagination).

³Georgian, May 20, 1932, p. 4.

⁴Ibid., May 4, 1932, p. 1.

Dramatics enabled Brother Elzear to afford an opportunity for self-expression to a large group of students. Among those who excelled in this field were Gilbert Nevius and Walter Kerr, both from the charter classes of 1931. The latter has since gained fame by his work in the Catholic University of America dramatics department.¹ Later he became drama critic for Commonweal and is now holding the same position with the New York Herald Tribune. Gilbert Nevius died in 1941 of peritonitis, thus cutting short what promised to be an equally promising career.

In the field of athletics, the problems of which are discussed so much at the present time, the efforts of Brother Elzear were directed to the building up of winning teams, but his main objective was the creation of a broad program wherein every student would find an opportunity to take an active part.

Athletic teams in football, basketball, swimming, boxing, baseball, and track were formed within the first four years bringing the name of St. George before the public. The wide appeal of the program as set up was demonstrated by the fact that in September 1928 when there was a total of 366 boys in school Freshmen and Sophomores, 120 candidates reported for football.²

At the same time an active intramural program had been set up. Seventeen teams were formed for an indoor baseball league thus taking in the entire student body.³

Playing an important part in this athletic program was

¹The American Catholic Who's Who, 1952 and 1953. (Grosse Pointe, Michigan: Walter Romig, 1952) p. 250.

²St. George News, September 21, 1928, p. 1.

³Ibid., p. 2.

the new swimming pool. Here again it was made available to as many as possible:

The swimming pool was opened several days after the opening of school and is very popular. The boys use it with astonishing frequency.

Brother H. Michael who was given charge of the swimming pool has arranged contests in which the boys are allowed to take part. Monday is a day off. The schedule is as follows: Tuesday is the day for boys who have five years or more experience in swimming, while Wednesday is for those students who have had from three to five years. Thursday is for those who have had one, two, or three years experience, and Friday is assigned to those who are unable to swim or who have had less than one year experience. The hours for swimming on week days are from 2:30 to 4:00, save on Saturday when anyone who wishes to swim may do so under the supervision of any Brother from two to twelve o'clock.

Instructors have been appointed. Their duty is to teach the boys unable to swim the art of swimming....¹

Implied in all these activities, however, and playing the dominant role was the spirit of a Catholic school which Brother Elzear endeavored to inculcate in keeping with the purpose of the Christian Brothers:

The end of this Institute is to give a Christian education to children; it is for this purpose the Brothers keep schools, that, having the children under their care from morning until evening, they may teach them to lead good lives, by instructing them in the mysteries of our holy religion and by inspiring them with Christian maxims, and thus give them a suitable education.²

Noteworthy achievements in the field of religious education came through the successful efforts of students in the competitive examinations in Religion sponsored by the St. Louis

¹St. George News , October 28, 1927, p. 3.

²Brothers of the Christian Schools, Common Rules and Constitutions of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Rome, 1947), p. 5

Province of the Christian Brothers. These occurred from the spring of 1928 through the spring of 1931 under the leadership of Brother Leopold, the Provincial.¹ In the first contest thus held, a Saint George student won the first prize as indicated in the following statement:

It gives me a very great pleasure to announce to you the winners of the Contest in Christian Doctrine, particularly so because St. George has the distinction of having carried off both First and Second places in the Freshman division.

I congratulate you and the teachers and particularly the young men--Charles Beaumont and James Boyle--who have brought such great honor on themselves and St. George High School.²

The second place winner for that year, James Boyle, gained first place as a sophomore along with John Heavy, who won first place in the freshman contest.³ In the third year, however, Charles Beaumont came out again on top.⁴ In 1931 Paul Dougher for the Seniors, James Touhy for the Juniors, and States Mead for the Sophomores were the winners.⁵

Besides these competitive examinations in Christian Doctrine there were similar tests in other subjects. In them

¹Leonard William, Brother, F.S.C., "Examinations in Christian Doctrine Held" Bulletin of the St. De La Salle Auxiliary, VIII (July 1928), p. 59.

²Letter from Brother Leopold as quoted in St. George News, June 8, 1928, p. 1.

³Leonard William, Brother, F.S.C., "Results in Christian Doctrine Examinations" Bulletin of the St. De La Salle Auxiliary, IX (July 1924), p. 62.

⁴Ibid., X (July 1930), p. 62

⁵Georgian, May 22, 1931, p. 1.

Saint George students managed to garner more than their share of first places. In the Algebra test of June, 1929, Neil Farrant, a freshman, was the winner.¹ The tests in the following year resulted in two first places for Saint George students: Paul Arthur, a junior, in physics; and Alphonse Aymond, a sophomore, in Latin.²

Efforts of the faculty during these first four years were directed, in great part, to the fulfillment of requirements for proper accreditation. Approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Illinois and by the University of Illinois was obtained on February 21, 1931--when the first graduating class was in the middle of its senior year.³ Accreditation by the North Central Association did not come until after Brother Elzear's term.⁴ It is quite obvious, though, that his work in obtaining state recognition was a necessary preliminary to such accreditation.

In addition to this approval by the state authorities the school obtained another testimonial of excellence in the following year:

¹Ibid., October 11, 1929, p. 4.

²Ibid., June 6, 1930, p. 1.

³Official record of this approval is contained in a letter to Brother Elzear from Harry M. Thrasher, State High School Supervisor, dated February 20, 1931, this on the part of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Approval by the University of Illinois is recorded in a letter to Brother Elzear dated February 21, 1931, from Arthur W. Clevenger, High School Visitor.

⁴This certification was obtained in 1936. Cf. pp. 68,69.

I am pleased to advise you that on March 17, 1932, our Committee on Admissions voted to give the St. George High School the full certificate privilege to Dartmouth College....

.....
 Very truly yours,
 Ralph A. Burns.¹

This meant that entrance examinations would not be required of Saint George graduates intending to matriculate at that institution.

Mention has already been made of the interest fostered in the study of religion at Saint George. Two other activities calculated to deepen religious convictions and to promote a Christian atmosphere in the school likewise were promoted vigorously during these years. The first of these activities, student retreats, were held at least annually beginning with the retreat of 1927. To make this a project memorable and significant to the students Brother Elzear first of all selected as retreat-master a prominent Franciscan missionary, Father Patrick Maloney.² "Father Pat," as he was familiarly known, had a burning zeal,

¹Letter to Brother Elzear, dated March 21, 1932 (preserved in the files of Saint George High School).

²Born November 4, 1890, "Father Pat" entered the Franciscans in 1917. He died at Battle Creek, Michigan, August 18, 1943, shortly after he had become an army chaplain (Catalogus Provinciae Ssi. Cordis Jesu O.F.M., St. Louis: 1933), no. 187.

particularly for the welfare of boys and showed himself especially gifted in that type of work.¹

In order to make this first student retreat especially noteworthy and also to pay recognition to the one man who laid so much of the groundwork for the building of Saint George High School, Brother Elzear invited Bishop Hoban to say the Mass for the students on Tuesday, December 6. The third issue of the new school paper describes the occasion as follows:

The retreat was launched here last Monday, Dec. 2. It was formally opened at 9 A.M. with a prayer and a talk on the purpose of the retreat by Father Patrick Maloney one of the most famous of Franciscan speakers.. ..He explained that the purpose of our retreat was an opening of our books with God and our reuniting with Him spiritually....

On Tuesday, St. Nicholas day, the first Mass was celebrated at St. George. It was said by Rt. Rev.

¹"Father Pat" endeared himself to the hearts of all by his unbounded love for the poor and unfortunate and especially the youth. For several years he was connected with the Layman's Retreat Movement. Together with Bishop Shiel (sic) he was instrumental in organizing the C.Y.O. in Chicago, especially in the founding of several Shelters for homeless boys. He also served as Chaplain at the Juvenile Home and the County Jail in Chicago. While at St. Peter's he was director of the Young Peoples Club....(Biographical sketch of Father Patrick Maloney, O.F.M., preserved in the archives of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Franciscan Friary of Saint Anthony of Padua: St. Louis, Missouri). Father Maloney was also godfather to Brother Kevin Alexis, a member of the faculty of Saint George High School since 1939 (Statement by Brother Kevin Alexis, personal interview, December 28, 1952).

Bishop Hoban in our own small chapel....¹

The other activity by which Brother Elzear hoped to educate the religious sensibilities of the students was the introduction of the celebration of Holy Mass and reception of Holy Communion on the First Friday of each month.² Inaugurated in 1929 by the use of the school gymnasium as a chapel, this was begun and continued with the aid of Father Maloney who had now become spiritual director of the Saint George student body. It was later abandoned by reason of circumstances which had arisen in the meantime and which made its continuance inadvisable.

A summing-up of the accomplishments of Brother Elzear's administration brings one back to the statement previously quoted that he was a man of "brilliant personality, dynamic energy, and great ideas."³ Implied therein was an idealistic viewpoint which, to him, meant that Saint George High School should have the best of everything.⁴ If he was sometimes more

¹St. George News, December 16, 1927, p. 4. A careful reading of the article will show that the writer was confused as to dates. Tuesday, the feast of Saint Nicholas, should be December 6. Therefore, Monday, December 2, is not consistent. If we remember that the dedication took place on Sunday, October 30, ordinary counting will show that December 2 in that year fell on a Friday. Consequently the retreat must have begun on Monday, December 5. The article later on mentions that the retreat ended Thursday, December 8. This latter sequence is in harmony with what is indicated in almanacs (cf. National Catholic Almanac, Paterson, New Jersey: St. Anthony's Guild, 1952, p. 26).

²Georgian, February 8, 1929, p. 5.

³Cf. p. 41.

⁴Statement by Brother Joseph Alphonsus, Personal Interview, December 29, 1952. Brother Alphonsus was stationed at Saint George continuously from 1932 to 1937, from 1939 to 1941, and finally during the school year 1950-51 (Cf. Community Register, Numbers 31, 72, 192).

adept at starting things than finishing them,¹ if he did not take time to worry where the money would come from to finance his many ambitious projects, these defects are more than outweighed by his positive contributions at this critical period of beginning a new school.²

¹Statements by Brother John Victorian, Personal Interview, August 4, 1952. Brother John was stationed at Saint George in 1928. He was appointed sub-director of the community as well as assistant principal and supervisor in 1929 in which positions he continued until the end of the school year of 1932-33 (Cf. Community Register, Number 6).

²The two Brothers cited above as well as Brother Hector Vincent agree in this view point.

CHAPTER IV

DIFFICULT YEARS

The Mississippi Vista presents a rather bleak picture of what confronted the new director on his arrival at Saint George High School:

In 1933 Brother Lawrence David became Director. This was the year the financial crash of 1929 was reaching its most desperate point. During the regime of Brother Elzear the student body had grown to more than 600 boys.¹ But now with un-employment and bank failures crushing the public, the student enrollment fell off.²

The long and varied experience of Brother Lawrence³ plus his realistic common sense⁴ were two essential elements in his character that enabled him to surmount the problems that pressed on him from all sides with his arrival at 350 Sherman Avenue.

¹Actually as the following table shows, the highest enrollment figure during Brother Elzear's time was 558 in the school year 1930-31.

²Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., pp. 162, 165.

³He had been director of De La Salle High School on Chicago's South Side from 1918 to 1924 and from 1927 to 1933. From 1924 to 1927 he was the principal of De La Salle High School in Joliet (ibid., pp. 148, 260). In addition he had been a member of the advisory council for the Saint Louis Province for a number of years (Statement by Brother Leopold, Personal Interview, August 7, 1951).

⁴Statement by Brother Hector Vincent, Personal Interview, August 25, 1952. Brother Vincent served as assistant principal and sub-director of the community during Brother Lawrence's six years at Saint George (Community History, 1933-39).

TABLE 4¹

STUDENT POPULATION TOGETHER WITH THE NUMBER OF
BROTHERS AND TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS, 1927-1952

Years	Number of Pupils	Number of Brothers	Total Number of Teachers
1927-28	160	4	5
1928-29	366	8	10
1929-30	510	10	13
1930-31	558	12	23
1931-32	553	13	22
1932-33	508	15	17
1933-34	470	17	19
1934-35	434	18	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
1935-36	420	17	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
1936-37	496	17	17
1937-38	565	18	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
1938-39	629	20	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
1939-40	653	20	24
1940-41	615	20	23
1941-42	628	20	23
1942-43	645	20	22
1943-44	648	20	23
1944-45	722	20	24
1945-46	803	20	26
1946-47	898	22	31
1947-48	1021	23	35
1948-49	1032	22	36
1949-50	1081	26	37
1950-51	1189	30	42
1951-52	1184	31	43

¹Data for the first three years in this table were obtained from issues of the school paper. From 1930-31 to the present year the annual report to the University of Illinois was the source.

As might be expected, the problem which caused the most anxious moments was the financial one. Brother Elzear's administration had been marked by zeal, enthusiasm, and energy. But among the company of those excellent qualities economic foresight was not to be found.¹ In addition, his characteristic kindness prevented him from applying the proper sort of persuasion to such families as were recalcitrant in meeting their tuition obligations.² When such personal qualities, therefore, were confronted with a situation like the economic depression of those years, the results placed Saint George in a very precarious financial condition.

Among the economies that Brother Lawrence instituted was the removal of all secular teachers³ and the halting of publication of the school paper.⁴ The termination of band instruction and activities, although not primarily due to financial difficulties,⁵ fitted in with the program of rigid economy that Brother Lawrence had set up.

Various measures were taken to provide revenue sufficient

¹Statement by Brother Hector Vincent, Personal Interview, August 25, 1952.

²Statement by Brother John Victorian, Personal Interview, August 4, 1952.

³Community History, 1933. Brother Elzear had done this in the fall of 1932 according to the testimony of Brother Leopold (letter to Monsignor Maguire, Chancellor of Chicago archdiocese, November 21, 1932).

⁴cf. p. 47.

⁵Statement by Brother Lawrence David, Personal Interview, August 5, 1952.

to meet the needs of the upkeep of the school. A study of Table 4 shows that 1934-35 and 1935-36 were the low points in school enrollment. To counteract the tendency to a decreasing enrollment a mid-year Freshman class was registered in February, 1935 at which time eighteen students were admitted.¹ In February of 1936 ten new students registered, and this emergency recruiting program continued throughout the remainder of Brother Lawrence's term.

Intensive recruiting of students from the graduating classes of the parochial schools on the north and northwest side along with the North Shore suburban parishes was also a feature introduced by Brother Lawrence. Brother Luke Paul, who joined the community in January of 1936,² was appointed to take care of this work in April of that same year. He continued the program in the following year.³ In March of 1938 Brother Hector Vincent took over the work⁴ because Brother Luke had been transferred to Cretin High School in St. Paul the previous August.⁵ Further study of Table 4 shows a steady and rather generous increase in the enrollment during these same years, and it has been attributed, in no small part, to the work of these two Brothers.⁶

¹Community History, 1935.

²Ibid., 1936.

³Ibid., 1937.

⁴Ibid., 1938.

⁵Ibid., 1937.

⁶Statement by Brother Lawrence David, Personal Interview, August 5, 1952.

This increase in enrollment brought about, in the year 1938, a change in the residential accommodations for the faculty. In September of 1938 two new classrooms were added, a change which made necessary the leasing of sufficient rooms in a three-story apartment directly across from the school building to take care of eight Brothers.¹ This building was eventually leased in its entirety for that purpose and was so used until the present faculty residence was erected in 1950.

This work of recruiting students involves in great measure a good public-relations program. To bolster up this phase of his administration and to provide badly-needed revenue necessary to meet the operating expenses of the school, an invitational basketball tournament was planned for the Christmas holidays of 1934. The community chronicler for that year notes that "it was highly successful, being the means of extensively advertising our school."² He stresses the publicity angle which is certainly deserving of its proper emphasis. If it had not been financially remunerative, however, the tournament would hardly have been continued, as it has been, every Christmas-holiday season continuously since that year.³

Another venture in good public relations designed to attract more students to Saint George was the award of

¹Community History, 1938.

²Op. cit., 1934.

³Statement by Brother Hector Vincent, Personal Interview, August 25, 1952.

scholarships to the boys ranking highest in competitive examinations held at the school. Such examinations were first held May 16, 1936. The historian for that year tells us that "several hundred parochial eighth grade students attended."¹ In succeeding years the record grows more precise. In May of 1937 about "five hundred grade school boys attended."² The 1938 groups numbered more than six hundred,³ while in 1939 the record would seem to contradict statements of previous years when it stated that there was in attendance "a full house--500 boys."⁴ Whatever the discrepancies may be in these figures, they are minor when placed along side of the fact that a relatively inexpensive but nonetheless effective advertising program of the school was thus being carried out.

In connection with the basketball tournament previously mentioned, it was during this six-year period that Saint George "came of age" as it were in the keen competition that exists among the Catholic high schools of the Chicago area in sports. In November of 1937 "the St. George High School football team became Co-Champions with Fenwick High School for the North Section title. This was the first time that a St. George football

¹Community History, 1936.

²Ibid., 1937.

³Ibid., 1938.

⁴Ibid., 1939. The contradiction is more apparent than real, if the reader will remember that all the figures cited are but estimates.

team achieved such a distinction."¹ There had been swimming championships during the first six years of the school's existence, but they did not receive the publicity that attended football. In the pre-season basketball tournament for 1937 as also for 1938 the Saint George team finished second.² First place in this tournament, in fact, evaded the host school until Christmas of 1950.³ All the previous titles, however, were topped by the achievements of the lightweight basketball team and track team of 1939; both of these aggregations gained city championships.⁴

Enough has been said of the facade of public relations. The academic and scholastic progress of the school needs now to be examined. Perhaps this can be best introduced by quoting a letter from a graduate of the 1934 class who is now teaching at Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland. Writing to Brother Lawrence Sixtus⁵ only recently deceased,⁶ after the latter had retired to the Holy Family Community at Glencoe, Missouri, he had this to say:

¹Community History, 1937.

²Ibid., 1937 and 1938.

³The Dragon, January 15, 1951.

⁴Community History, 1939.

⁵Brother Lawrence Sixtus was a member of the Saint George faculty during the year 1933-34 (Community Register, no. 34).

⁶St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 9, 1953.

.....

They tell me that you have retired from a steady schedule--the thought first surprised me but then I realized that it is now 18 years since that year of 1933-34 at St. George which marks the academic golden age in the history of that institution--when again can there be assembled a galaxy of stars like L. Sixtus, John Joe, Edmund, Vincent, L. David and other who could painlessly turn a senior high school year into an upper level collegiate experience. I've seen a lot of schooling since, but no year has topped that one in its influence on me....¹

Brother Lawrence Sixtus spent but one year teaching at Saint George, but the fact that his memory and influence were still so powerful in the life of this former student was but another recognition paid to the ability of a man who had occupied many and varied positions in the Congregation. President of Christian Brothers College in St. Louis from 1910 to 1916, instructor for the extension department of the University of Missouri during the fall of 1924 while stationed at Kansas City, dean from 1925 to 1927 of Saint Mary's College at Oakland, California,² the first Brother to occupy the position of dean of Saint Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota after it had been

¹Letter from Edward Bobalek, Professor at Case Institute of Technology (Cleveland, Ohio, December 31, 1950). He obtained his Ph. D. from the University of Indiana in 1942.

²Brother Austin Odran, president of Saint Mary's College from 1941 to 1950, himself a member of the faculty at the California institution when Brother Lawrence was dean, and personally known to the author, is authority for an estimate of the latter's work. It was his considered opinion that this work produced an incalculable amount of good--a good which is still continuing (Statement given to the author in a personal interview, August 19, 1952).

acquired by the congregation in 1933, founder of a unique financial aid organization known as the Cretin Students' Loan Association during his stay in St. Paul--in all of these positions Brother Lawrence was recognized for the high quality of his work.¹ From this extensive experience then his words concerning the scholastic health of Saint George High School acquire a meaning worth recording in attempting to assess the value of the school in fulfilling its prime objective:

....During the two years I spent at St. George's--we had a fine faculty interested almost completely in Scholastic work. And the student body corresponded to our efforts in such a wonderful way that teaching there was a real pleasure.²

"John Joe" was another remarkable teacher on the faculty from September of 1933 until his death on December 23, 1942,³ except for the year 1934-35, during which he was on leave of absence to organize the department of religion at Manhattan College in New York. The classes he taught at Saint George are still vividly recalled by those who were under his tutelage.

Brother John Joseph gave us the Life of Christ as an earthy, day to day, plodding life, very human, but without losing any of its magnificence and spirituality. I must admit that high school classes are often a chore rather than something to enjoy. On the contrary his classes were something to look forward to....

I must mention one of his tricks. Whenever he thought the attention of the class was lagging, he would raise his voice and allow a few cuss words to get into the story.

¹Hubert Gerard Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., pp. 191, 219.

²Letter from Brother Lawrence Sixtus, July 18, 1952.

³Community History, 1934-42.

Brother John was the type of teacher that we all admired, will always remember, but would probably never do much for him directly. I think this because he was so humble and spectacular only in his subtlety.¹

During that time he managed to inspire many of the younger Brothers with his catechetical zeal by means of his electrifying talks and the mimeographed publication of his notes and syllabi dealing with the teaching of Religion. Concrete result of such inspiration was the LIVING WITH CHRIST series of high-school religion texts now used in the thirteen high schools of the Christian Brothers' St. Louis province as well as in 23 other schools conducted by the Brothers in the United States and by 16 schools conducted by other religious teaching groups.² The prefatory acknowledgments to the first book contain the following statement:

The first acknowledgment is due to Brother John Joseph, F.S.C., now gone to his reward among the saints, for the main outlines of this book, which has been developed from his Religion Outlines published in 1932. Apart from his valuable manuscripts on things catechetical, left as a heritage to his confreres, his zeal has been the inspiration of LIVING WITH CHRIST, as well as of every other catechetical activity which has been coursing along the Mississippi during the last five years. He has set the pace.³

¹Letter from Peter Moulder, March 30, 1953. An alumnus of the class of 1938 he is now a surgeon doing research at Billings Hospital, University of Chicago.

²Letter from Brother Lucian Alphonsus, March 3, 1953. Brother Alphonsus is the author of the first volume and general editor for the whole series.

³LIVING WITH CHRIST: High School Religion, Course I (third edition), Saint Mary's College Press, (Winona, Minnesota), 1948, p. v.

That this high opinion of the worth of Brother John Joseph was not limited to those of his own religious congregation may be shown by his work as visiting professor at De Paul University's Religion department. Particularly does it shine out in his work for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine as is shown from the following:

I have your letter of inquiry...concerning the relation of Brother John Joseph to the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. I am very pleased to answer the question as best I can because Brother John Joseph was so competent and so cooperative with our work and because he and I became very close personal friends.

It would not be correct to say that he was directly involved in the formation of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the United States because he came into the movement after the National Center had been set up in 1934. But shortly thereafter he became associated with the section of the Confraternity dealing with the adult education program through discussion clubs as well as the high school program for public school youth. Brother John Joseph brought to both of these programs real enthusiasm for the teaching of the Life of Our Lord as the basis for religious instruction both on the high school and adult level. In this field he had exceptional competence and in successive National Catechetical Congresses he made a permanent contribution to the program of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in both these fields. On the occasion of these Congresses he was always an inspiring figure especially in the religious discussion club demonstration where his love and zeal for Our Lord and his pedagogical competence in presenting the life of Our Lord to others were his marked characteristics.¹

These were the outstanding personalities among the faculty of those years, outstanding, that is, in the tributes paid them both by their pupils and others who worked with them.

¹Letter from His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edwin V. O'Hara, bishop of Kansas City, Missouri, February 27, 1953. Bishop O'Hara is episcopal chairman of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

One of the worthwhile projects initiated during this time was that of a special retreat for seniors during their last few months in school. The record lists two such retreats-- during the spring of 1934 and of 1935.¹ This practice, unfortunately, was discontinued to be resumed only when Brother Julius Edgar was principal fifteen years later.

The practice of having Mass and Communion on the First Friday for the student body in the school gymnasium, Brother Lawrence, after consultation with the faculty and members of the local clergy, deemed better to stop. The following reasoning has been advanced for this change: the gymnasium did not provide a sufficiently religious and dignified atmosphere, but mainly it was felt that this procedure was contributing rather to a decrease than to an increase in the boy's loyalty for his own parish.²

Perhaps Brother Lawrence's outstanding achievement in the strictly academic phase of his administration was the raising of the standards of the school sufficiently to obtain accreditation from the North Central Association. This cryptic comment was indited by the community chronicler and dated November 1935: "Our second application for membership in the North Central filed."³ The actual date as recorded on the

¹Community History, 1934, 1935.

²Statement by Brother Lawrence David, Personal Interview, August 5, 1953.

³Community History, 1935.

membership certificate is April 25, 1936. This accreditation has been continued without a break to the present day.

In the matter of curriculum offerings the only significant changes occurred in the economic and commercial field. Commercial Geography was offered in 1933 for the first time,¹ and in 1938 Business Training was added.² Providing the impetus for this was Brother John Michael, a member of the community from 1935 to 1938 who had obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Northwestern University in the summer of 1936.³

Although reasons of economy and lack of interest on the part of the band members had led to the termination of that activity, Brother Lawrence had been looking for an opportunity to provide for the musical interests and education of the student body. In 1937 the occasion presented itself when he was able to hire Mr. Moos, a competent musician and an excellent voice teacher whom he had known at De La Salle. The first concert of the glee club, thus newly organized, was given on May 15, 1937.⁴ In June of 1938 they performed in their second annual spring concert; they appeared again at the commencement on June 9.⁵

¹Annual Report to the University of Illinois, 1933.

²Ibid., 1938.

³Community History, 1936.

⁴Ibid., 1937.

⁵Ibid., 1938.

In December of that same year they presented in addition a fall concert.¹ Their best performance, however, was reserved for the Auditorium theatre the following spring. There they participated in the golden jubilee celebration of the establishment of De La Salle High School on the south side of Chicago.²

Summarizing the administration of Brother Lawrence, then, it may well be said that he was "the necessary complement to Brother Elzear."³ He consolidated the bold ventures initiated by his predecessor, made firm the foundations of the school both financially and scholastically, and finally not the least, by his own warm and winning personality gained for the school a multitude of friends whose devotion to the cause symbolized by the fact of Saint George High School can best be expressed in the simple but heartfelt words of one who came to serve as a "temporary" cook for the Brothers' community on April 26, 1933 and has remained to the present day.

Brother Lawrence came in Aug [ust] of that year. I have the highest regard for him [;] he was the grandest person I ever worked for [;] he was very sympathetic and very considerate. I lived 6 wonderful years under his administration.

I promised Brother Elzear I'd help out for a year. When the year passed, Brother Vincent came to me and

¹Ibid.

²Souvenir Booklet commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of De La Salle High School (Chicago: 1939).

³Statement by Brother Hector Vincent, Personal Interview, August 25, 1952.

said " I hope you will stay with us a while longer."¹
Oh yes I'll stay for a while, and here I am 20 years--¹
and I have never regretted it. Thanks to the Brothers.¹

¹Letter from Miss Mary Slannick, March 4, 1953.

CHAPTER V

WAR-TIME ADJUSTMENT

"In both the scholastic and athletic departments of the school, Brother Bernard [the new Director] was well prepared with wisdom and experience."¹ This complimentary remark concerning the change of administration in August of 1939² had for basis a successful five-year period from 1934 to 1939 during which Brother Hilary Bernard had been the director of Cathedral High School in Duluth, Minnesota.³

Brother Bernard continued the work of consolidation begun during Brother Lawrence's term.⁴ If a well-disciplined student body and a high level of morale on the faculty during these years are indications of a successful administrator, Brother Bernard filled the bill in an admirable manner.⁵ An innate reserve which sometimes gave the appearance of a cold and gruff manner in dealing with parents of students and others

¹Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 165.

²Community History, 1939.

³Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 260.

⁴Statement by Brother Leo Luke, Personal Interview, March 15, 1953. Brother Luke was a member of the Saint George Community from August of 1938 to August, 1941 (Community Register No. 79).

⁵Ibid.

who had dealings with the school, was more than counterbalanced by his efforts to induce a friendly spirit among the students towards the members of the faculty. He showed this even in such an apparently small matter as his encouragement to the students to greet the members of the faculty in a friendly way when they would meet in the corridor or on the campus.¹ Such a program was happily co-incidental with that period of stress and strain from 1939 to 1942 which saw the country, and consequently its schools, go through the critical and trying years of defense preparations finally culminating with this country's entrance into World War II.

There is little of note during these years concerning the academic work of the school except that it was efficiently managed.² About the only noteworthy administrative change was the new arrangement of the school schedule. Where previously there had been six class periods of forty-five minutes' duration (one of which periods was devoted to supervised study), the new time-table called for five one-hour periods.³ In this procedure the instructor himself provided time towards the end of his class period for what was planned and what actually turned out to be more efficiently supervised study.⁴

¹Ibid.

²Statement by Brother Jeremiah Arthur, Letter, March 10, 1953.

³Community History, 1940.

⁴Statement by Brother Leo Luke, Personal Interview, March 15, 1953.

A religious activity which received a great deal of attention during these years was the work of mission education by the stimulation of interest in the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the appeals to the generosity of the students in promoting this cause. One of the men instrumental in promoting this work has been indicated in the following brief but effective manner:

Renewed interest in Propagation of Faith Missions Collections--Brother H. Pius in charge....School collected \$340 for Missions in one day, Dec. 16, 1941--no prize offered for it.¹

The Mission collections ably conducted by Brother Pius were completed in May with a record collection of \$1307 being turned in to the Propagation of the Faith Society.²

This activity has grown through the years to the extent revealed in the following statistics:

¹Community History, 1941.

²Ibid., 1942.

TABLE 5¹

CONTRIBUTIONS BY SAINT GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
FOR THE YEARS 1940-52

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1940-41	\$183.95
1941-42	1307.95
1942-43	1763.60
1943-44	2376.59
1944-45	3667.37
1945-46	3791.67
1947-48	3000.00
1948-49	3030.73
1949-50	3184.09
1950-51	2600.00
1951-52	3099.79
<u>Total</u>	\$31282.11

Various stages in the achievement of this record as well as in other phases of Mission education are also noted in the Community History for these and succeeding years. Thus in 1946 "the students made a splendid contribution to the book drive for the Brothers in the Philippines."² The stimulus for this had

¹These data were contained in a letter from the Very Reverend Monsignor James M. Lawler, Archdiocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, February 14, 1953.

²Community History, 1946.

come from the fact that "during January the community was visited by a former member of the faculty, Brother Lucian Athanasius, who recently returned from the Philippines."¹

To show the importance attached by the administration to making the student body mission-conscious, mention should be made of the invitation extended to Monsignor James J. Horsburgh, at that time Archdiocesan Director for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, to give the graduation address in June of 1944.² In 1949 "a special mission collection for the Brothers' School in Bluefields Nicaragua was taken up."³ Finally in 1951 motivating appeals for this work were indicated as follows: "Strong incentives for being generous in the Mission Collections were given by Brother Arthur, a former missionary to the Philippines, as well as by Brother Luke Constantius who prepares for his departure at Easter time for the Nicaraguan Missions."⁴

Mentioned in passing were various members of the faculty who are or were engaged in missionary activity. The complete record is tabulated as follows:

¹Ibid.

²Community History, 1944.

³Ibid., 1949.

⁴Ibid., 1951.

TABLE 6

MEMBERS OF THE SAINT GEORGE FACULTY
WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE MISSIONS¹

Brother	Missionary Location	Years of missionary service
Lucian Athanasius	Manila	1935-1950 ²
Joseph Antoninus	Bluefields, Nicaragua	1944-
Jerome Patrick	Bluefields, Nicaragua	1944-
Jeremiah Arthur	Manila	1946-1950
Honorius Alfred	Manila	1946-
Luke Constantius	Bluefields, Nicaragua	1950-
Jerome De La Salle	Manila	1952-

In addition, Brother Hugh Damian (Arthur Wester), an alumnus from the class of 1934 has been stationed at Manila since 1938 with the exception of the school year 1945-46 when he was back in the United States recuperating from the rigors of imprisonment in Santo Tomas prison during the war.³ In order to judge this list in its proper context, finally, it should be born in mind that members of the Brothers of the Christian Schools who are assigned to missionary work receive such appointments only after they have volunteered for such work.

¹Community Register, Numbers 25, 100, 78, 89, 75, 103, 125.

²Deceased.

³Brothers of the Christian Schools, Bulletin of the St. De La Salle Auxiliary, XXVII (Autumn, 1947), p. 60.

This activity on behalf of the missions by Saint George High School has been adequately summed up in the following words:

St. George High School consistently has been among the top leaders in the Society for a long time. In our letters of acknowledgment we have always tried to express our deep appreciation and gratitude. I am quite certain that this spirit was developed in no small degree at this school by two men: Brother Joseph Antoninus, who is now in Bluefields, Nicaragua and your own brother, Joe.¹

"In 1942 Brother Ignatius Patrick took over the direction of St. George."² In 1939 he had replaced Brother Bernard at Duluth,³ and now he was again stepping into the latter's shoes. Still less than thirty-five years of age,⁴ his previous experience enabled him to make the adaptations necessary to the management of a school in this large metropolitan area during the troubled war years.

Academic revamping during this time was limited mainly to the introduction of an accelerated program which would enable seniors to earn their high-school diplomas before being subject to the draft. This accelerated program was conducted by means of summer school during the years 1943 and 1944.⁵

¹Letter from the Very Reverend Monsignor James J. Lawler, February 14, 1953. Reference in the last phrase is to the author's brother, the Very Reverend Monsignor Joseph A. Wagner, at that time assistant director of the Society for the Chicago Archdiocese.

²Hubert Gerard, Brother F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 165.

³Ibid., p. 260.

⁴Community Register, number 105.

⁵Community History, 1943, 1944.

There had been considerable talk in educational circles shortly after the war started as to the desirability of substituting aviation for physics. After consultation with military men and with college deans, and in view of the emphasis at Saint George on college-preparatory work, it was considered wiser to stick with physics.¹

Other adjustments to the needs of the war years consisted in the offering of first-aid courses to the students. So that the faculty would be qualified in that regard, an instructors' course was given to them at the school by a member of the Evanston Police Department during November, 1942.² The community's material needs and the demands of the budget particularly in regard to ration points were met by the expedient of a victory garden and the raising of chickens. The latter device, in charge of which was Brother Jeremiah Bernardine,³ proved quite useful during the times that it was so difficult to purchase meat.

A note concerning the contributions of the Saint George student body and alumni to the defense of this country during World War II is quite in order. More than nine hundred former

¹Statement by Brother Ignatius Patrick, Personal Interview, July 21, 1952.

²Community History, 1942.

³Ibid., 1943.

students served in the armed forces of the United States and of these, forty-four lost their lives in that service.¹ The honor-roll plaque placed in the vestibule of the main entrance is a silent reminder to succeeding students of the standards set by their predecessors.

Brother Patrick was deeply interested in promoting a successful athletic program, both in interscholastic competition and in intramural participation. His appointee as athletic director, Mr. Max Burnell, has been at Saint George continuously since September 7, 1943. His first year as football coach brought success to the school in the form of a tie for the championship in the Catholic League, the city title by virtue of its 19-12 victory over Wendell Phillips, the public-school representative in the annual Kelly Bowl game, and a final win, 25-20, in an intersectional contest held in New York City over Mount Saint Michael's High School of that city.² Since then his teams have always been at or near the top in the tough competition of the Catholic League.

Such success captures the headlines, but perhaps more significant in an educational sense, has been the elaborate intramural program and physical education set-up engineered by Mr. Burnell.

¹Letter from Brother Luke Clement, March 11, 1953. Brother Luke, while moderator of the alumni from 1943 to 1950, kept up correspondence with a great many of the service men during the war years.

²Letter from Mr. Max Burnell, March 24, 1953.

Our intramural program is played at noon, Half of the lunch period is devoted to this activity. We hold intramurals in the following sports: touch football, softball, basketball, volleyball, and sometimes soccer. Each class is represented by a team. Only boys that do not compete in inter-school competition are eligible. Regular schedules are drawn up and each division (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior) winds up with a winner on the basis of a best win and loss record. These teams that win individually receive awards plus their advisory number engraved on a plaque. Also the winners usually play the winners of the Loyola intramural program in each sport they have.¹

To take care of the physical education requirements, a program has been built up which stresses the following objectives:

1) To be sure that every boy in St. George can swim by the end of his sophomore year; 2) To develop every boy physically in the arms, shoulders, chest and legs as much as possible and make him coordinated by the time he finishes gym and 3) to teach and give every boy at St. George a general but practical insight into the following competitive sports: football, basketball, softball, soccer, track, swimming, volleyball, and boxing and tumbling.²

The authorities of Saint George High School have never been ashamed of the emphasis on athletic competition and physical education. They have always realized however, that a well-rounded educational program will try to give due recognition to qualities that are not nearly so glamorous but in the long run prove of much greater solidity. In line with this, Brother Patrick inaugurated in February of 1943 the Saint George Chapter of the National Honor Society.³ As explained in its

¹Ibid.

²Ibid.

³St. George High School, Students' Handbook, 1952-53, p. 53.

constitution, the chapter sets up the following requisites for membership:

"Candidates eligible to election to this chapter shall have a scholarship average of not less than B (85 per cent). All senior students who can rise to or above this level may be admitted to candidacy for election for membership. Their eligibility shall then be considered on their service, leadership, and character."¹

The Student Handbook then categorically states that "membership in the National Honor Society is the highest single award at St. George High School."²

An important change in the legal relationship of the Brothers to the school occurred in 1944. Up to this time Saint George High School was an institution owned by the Archdiocese and merely operated by the religious community. The steps in the process of change that took place at this time are aptly summarized in the following document:

I do remember very well the steps which led up to the transfer of the high school from the Archdiocese of Chicago to the Christian Brothers in 1944. It was occasioned by the urgent need at that time to provide living quarters for the Brothers. The superior at that time came to see me telling me that it had always been his understanding that the late Cardinal Mundelein had always promised that the Archdiocese would build a home for the Brothers when they were able to fill the school to capacity with students. As I remember it the Brothers for many years had been using some of the classrooms for living quarters. Even later on when they lived in the apartment house in the vicinity some of the

¹"Constitution of the St. George Chapter of the National Honor Society" quoted in Students Handbook, 1952-53, p. 53.

²St. George High School, op. cit., p. 53.

classrooms were used for living quarters and of course the apartment building was wholly inadequate. While I have been in the Chancery Office since 1929 I never had recalled this alleged promise that Cardinal Mundelein had made. We could find no record of it here and of course nothing had been put in writing.¹ At that time the suggestion was made that we turn over the title of the high school to the Brothers and let them build their own Brothers' home. It had always been our experience that when a Religious institute owned their own property they were able to meet the financial obligations with greater facility. In 1944 there was still a debt on St. George High School of about \$390,000 and at that time and for many years before the Brothers had not been able to pay anything on the debt nor even pay the interest on the principal. Moreover, it was very difficult for them even to be able to raise their own salaries from the income of the school.²

The "urgent need" for a community residence had existed from the very beginning, if not from the standpoint of the

¹A memorandum from Brother Elzear to Cardinal Mundelein with no date on it but which from internal evidence can be placed at some time during the school year of 1929-30, was graciously turned over to the writer by Mr. William Hoffmann of the Chancery Office. In this memorandum occurs the following statement:

"On August 5th, 1928 registration was closed because we felt that too large an enrollment might precipitate a crisis that we now are actually facing. About August 10th, the Reverend Chancellor called up to say that it was the wish of His Eminence that registration be again resumed. It was at that time that Brother Elzear was told that should the school be crowded at the end of the third year, a residence would be provided for the Brothers, thus enabling us to take in the students desirous of attending St. George."

This statement, then, seems to have been the basis for the understanding which the Brothers had and to which Monsignor Casey refers. He, however, is equally correct in asserting that there was no written confirmation of that agreement in the Chancery Office.

²Letter from the Right Reverend Monsignor George J. Casey, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago, February 25, 1953.

physical comfort desirable at least from that of the proper surroundings and atmosphere for a religious community. In addition knowledge of such a residence even from the very beginning of Saint George seems to have spread to others in Evanston as is indicated by the following news item which appeared when the school was opened:

The teachers are using the south wing of the building for living quarters at present, but a residence capable of housing 400 [!!!] teachers will be built on a lot northeast of the high school within the next five years.¹

In view of the present situation at Saint George and particularly in view of what is mentioned hereinafter, most suppositions about the existence of this understanding between Cardinal Mundelein and the Brothers can be relegated to the category of idle conjecture. For as Monsignor Casey goes on to say:

At a meeting of the Diocesan Consultors held on Aug. 30, 1944, the Archbishop asked them to consider the feasibility of handing over to the Christian Brothers the title to St. George High School. His Excellency pointed out the fact that for a long time they had found it very difficult even to meet the interest on the loan. He further indicated that the Brothers had wished to build a home and thus save for students' space many rooms now occupied by them. The Archbishop pointed out that if we gave the title of this property to the Brothers he was sure they would use their ingenuity to pay off the loan and put the high school on a paying basis. The proposal to transfer the title met with the unanimous approval of the consultors and subsequently the title was turned over to the Christian Brothers. As I recall it a written agreement was drawn up between the Brothers in St. Louis and the Archbishop of Chicago whereby the Brothers could never use this

¹Evanston Review, September 8, 1927, p. 19. Since previous articles of this newspaper had mentioned a student capacity of 1,000 it is only reasonable to assume that the figure 400 is a misprint for 40.

property for any other purpose than for a high school nor could they dispose of it without the written consent of the then Archbishop. Since then things have worked out very well. I believe that the original loan on the high school has been paid off with the exception of a remaining ninety or hundred thousand dollars. Besides the Brothers had been able to meet the regular interest payments on the loan and have taken care of the building of their home themselves.¹

This statement accords both in general and in detail with the written agreement referred to above.² The contract elaborates on the statement in the letter that the property could never be used for any other purpose than a high school when it states that the Brothers bind themselves,

to establish and maintain on said premises a first class Catholic high school, meeting all the requirements as to curriculum and equipment that are required by the laws of the State of Illinois and the prescriptions of legitimate Church authority....and....not discontinue the maintenance of said high school nor dispose of the aforesaid property in any way without the expressed written consent of The Catholic Bishop of Chicago.³

The last of Brother Patrick's innovations occurred in January of 1945. The parents of the students were invited to meet the teachers of their boys by the simple expedient of having them come down on a designated evening and follow the boys' class schedules, allowing ten minutes for each period.⁴ Its

¹Letter of Monsignor Casey's previously cited. February 25, 1953.

²Agreement between La Salle Institute and The Catholic Bishop of Chicago, December 1, 1944.

³Ibid.

⁴Community History, 1945.

success has led to its continuance with one notable change--it is now held in October or at the latest, November, so that the parents can meet the faculty that much earlier in the scholastic year.¹

¹Ibid., 1946.

CHAPTER VI

POST-WAR EXPANSION

Brother Julius Edgar, installed as new director in August of 1945,¹ provided a continuity of administration that had not previously existed at Saint George, for Brother Julius had become a member of the faculty in September of 1942 and during the intervening three years had become quite familiar with its particular problems.² This knowledge enabled him to make rapid and wise adjustments to the changing patterns that confronted him in the busy post-war years.

A study of the table on page 58 shows that the five school years from 1945 up to and including 1949-50 brought an increase of 359 students or an annual addition averaging 72 students. This was the first problem, then, that he had to meet--how to provide sufficient space for the greatly-increased student body. The first step that was actually taken was to change the position of the library. Since the building had been put up, there had existed a large space measuring 83 feet by 33 to the side of the swimming pool and intended for spectators at swimming meets. Since this space had never been filled for any such events, it was deemed wise to use this to take care of

¹Community History, 1945.

²Community Register, Number 107.

the immediate need. Consequently in the summer of 1946 plans were drawn up whereby a partition would be placed between the swimming pool and the new room thus made, soundproofing would be installed to provide the quiet atmosphere needed for a library, and waterproofing taken care of as well in order to protect the books.¹ Nothing could be done during the school year of 1946-47, but

during the summer of 1947 the school library was moved from the first floor of the north wing to the area which had been previously intended as spectator space in the swimming-pool. By this move three new classrooms were made available.²

This seems to be the proper moment to give in summary form at least, the story of the development of the library. Brother Luke Clement, even before he had joined the community for a long period of years, had helped in the acquisition of books, mainly reference works.³ In September of 1938, Brother John Victorian was appointed as teacher-librarian. During the summer of 1929 he worked with Brother Joachim Sylvester, at that time a member of the faculty at Saint Patrick High School and for many years a prominent member of the Catholic Library Association, in the process of ordering and cataloguing books. The core of the library as then set up was taken from the list

¹The blue-print plans were drawn up by the architect, Thomas Edward Cooke; they are listed as Job Number 4615 and are dated August 16, 1946.

²Community History, 1947.

³Statement by Brother John Victorian, Personal Interview, August 4, 1952.

recommended by the University of Illinois. When the inspector from the university studied the nature of the collection of 6,000 books in 1931, he remarked to Brother John that it was the "nucleus of an excellent library." The physical equipment of the library purchased at that time was rather costly but quite satisfactory in most respects. There are still thirty walnut chairs, each of which cost \$18 from this original set.¹ Since then, the actual number of books has not greatly increased,² but its services in the way of related fields has grown to include 32 periodicals subscriptions for the students, six drawers of vertical file material, and the care of two 16 mm. motion-picture projectors and a film-strip projector.³ In addition the library is responsible for subscriptions to ten professional journals for the faculty.⁴

The next big change made in order to accommodate the increased number of students has been referred to somewhat in the account of the transfer of title for Saint George to the Brothers from the Archdiocese.⁵ Planning for a new faculty

¹Brother John Victorian is the source for all of this information about the early history of the library.

²At the present date there are slightly more than 6700 books in the library (Letter of Brother Jerome Fabian, present librarian, March 27, 1953).

³Letter cited in footnote 2.

⁴Ibid.

⁵This account occurs in Chapter V, pages 82 and 83.

residence had begun almost immediately after that transfer had taken place. Brother Patrick, with the approval of the Provincial, Brother Leopold, had engaged an architect in St. Louis who was well-known to the Brothers to draw up plans. These plans envisaged a three-story L-shaped residence with its main entrance facing on Austin Avenue, the whole structure to occupy the northwest corner of the property. It was to extend 144 feet from its northern extremity almost as far south as the southern edge of the gymnasium wing of the school building. The smaller part of the L would extend 60 feet east from the larger wing. The larger wing was to be about 40 feet wide and the smaller 30 feet. There were to be 35 bedrooms, 7 guest rooms, and a chapel which would seat 56 people.¹ The revision, dated July 7, 1945, showed little essential alteration from the original. However, the project, which had seemed to be progressing quite favorably, ran into difficulties. When the authorities of St. Francis Hospital learned of the construction being planned, they regretfully interposed the veto concerning the west 60 feet of the

¹P.M. O'Meara and Associates were the architects hired for this purpose. Mr. O'Meara had assisted in the design of the community residence for the Brothers at Cretin High School in St. Paul and had been the architect likewise for the residence built at the mother-house in Glencoe, Missouri for the elderly retired Brothers. (Cf. Bulletin of the St. De La Salle Auxiliary, VI (January, 1927), p. 11 and X (January, 1931), p. 18.

property as had been granted to them in the special contract drawn up in 1927.¹ The Brothers, although disappointed that the house planned could not be placed there, recognized fully the rights of the hospital in this regard and immediately turned to planning a residence somewhere else on the property.²

The next residence contemplated was somewhat in the nature of a penthouse.³ Brother Hubert Arthur⁴ helped considerably the efforts of Brother Julius in planning a structure which seemed to promise many desirable features at a very reasonable cost. After consultation with the W.J. Lynch Construction Company who had put up the school building, they found that the north and south wings were sufficiently strong to have a third floor added without any reinforcement, and that the cost of reinforcement needed for a fourth floor on the main wing would not be prohibitive. The following description gives a summary idea of these quarters. There would be 35 private rooms, 14 feet long and 8 feet wide, on the fourth floor that was to be added to the main wing. They would be divided by a central corridor 6 feet wide running the length of that wing. The third

¹cf. p. 16.

²Statement by Brother Julius Edgar, Personal Interview, October 24, 1952.

³Information that follows was obtained from the interview above with Brother Julius and from the blue-prints drawn up by Thomas Edward Cooke, Job Number 4615A. The number dates them at the same time as the plans for the library, August of 1946 (cf. p. 88).

⁴Community Register, Number 130.

floor added to the north wing would contain a chapel almost 125 feet long and 40 feet wide. Such dimensions obviously would be intended to provide usage by the student body as well as by the Brothers since there would be room for 200 persons. The third floor added to the south wing was intended to provide space for the Brothers' Community study room and for a recreation room. Finally on the central wing there would still be 30 feet towards the front of the building to be used as a terrace for walking or for a sun-deck. There was to be an elevator from the first floor with no doors at the second or third floors thus affording convenience and privacy for the community.

This plan, however, never progressed beyond the blueprint stage. Late in 1946, Brother Eliphas Victor, the recently-appointed Assistant to the Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools made a visit to Saint George. During his stay new plans were considered for a community residence.¹ These considerations eventually led to the plans finally adopted and brought to fruition in the present residence which occupies the space directly south of the main school building and connected thereto by means of a passage-way at the first-floor level. Its details are contained in a memorandum written by Brother Luke Clement:

The purposed [proposed] residence consisting of 40 sleeping rooms, a chapel, a dining room, a kitchen, a

¹Community History, 1946.

study hall and lavatory requirements will be a three-and-a-half story building costing approximately \$200,000¹

The price of \$200,000 was set as a limit in view of the financial obligations already existing on Saint George as a result of the transfer of title. This limit was indicated in a letter to Brother Luke which he received shortly before the completion of the residence.² Between the time that the memorandum above had been written and the fall of 1949, moreover, the dimensions of the building were reduced so that there were only thirty-three sleeping rooms instead of forty.³ Architect for the building was Thomas Francis Imbs of Milwaukee⁴ while Joseph Carp was the general contractor.⁵

By this construction the Brothers were able to remove the community chapel, study hall, dining room and kitchen out of the school building as well as vacate six smaller rooms which had been used for bedrooms by that number of Brothers.⁶ This change, then, gave room for 200 more students.⁷ This last number,

¹This memorandum is kept in the community archives. There is no date on it but internal evidence supplied by the following words "for the past twenty-two years the Christian Brothers at St. George" dates it at 1949. It was likewise written before Brother Luke began soliciting for funds, an activity which he began in February (Community History, 1949). The somewhat unorthodox spelling obvious in this citation is a result of the strange tricks which, as Brother Luke himself readily recognizes, a typewriter plays on him.

²Letter from Brother Philip, Provincial, February 5, 1950.

³Publicity release dated October 21, 1949.

⁴Publicity release dated March 19, 1949.

⁵Publicity release dated October 21, 1949.

⁶Memorandum of Brother Luke Clement cited on p. 92.

⁷Ibid.

therefore, seems to offer another reason for the \$200,000 price ceiling on the residence as indicated in the following computations:

According to present estimates, the cost of a school is \$1000 per student. St. George High School wants to spend the 200 x \$1000 to expand their present facilities. They wish to do this by putting up a Brothers' residence and at the same time make classroom space available for those boys who must be turned away at the present time.¹

The ground-breaking ceremony took place on May 28, 1949² and the Brothers were able to move in to the newly-completed building by the end of January, 1950.³

Having completed the story of the expansion of physical facilities, it is now proper to relate what steps were taken during these years to provide a better education for the student.

Brother Julius had inherited from Brother Patrick a great interest in the development of a proper guidance program.⁴ It was felt that in order to succeed, this program would need first of all the proper professional attitude on the part of the faculty. For this purpose Brother Julius, shortly after he had become director, instituted a series of faculty departmental meetings held twice a month.⁵ This led gradually to a better

¹Pamphlet privately published by Saint George High School as part of the soliciting done by Brother Luke Clement.

²Community History, 1949.

³Ibid., 1950.

⁴Peter, Brother Lawrence, op. cit., p. 5.

⁵Community History, 1945.

understanding of the advisory system of scheduling pupils already begun by Brother Patrick in September of 1943.¹ The "advisory" or "homeroom" group given to the teacher in the students' freshman year was the one he remained with as advisor, barring accidents or changes in the personnel of the community by the Provincial, until their graduation. In addition the students were scheduled individually, and for all classes except the incoming Freshmen, this was done in the spring of the preceding year. This latter group was scheduled after placement tests had been administered subsequent to the registration.²

In order that they might become better acquainted with the faculty, the newly-registered Freshmen received appointments to visit the school in April and May in order to have a private interview with their home-room advisor for the Freshman year.³ They were further aided in getting off to a good start by means of a meeting held for their parents. The first of these occurred in September, 1949.⁴ Its purpose was

that all may understand just what is expected of them, that the supervision and motivation of the boys be clear and well-defined, and finally that the standards to which the boys will be held be identical at school, at play, and at home.⁵

¹Peter, Brother Lawrence, *op. cit.*, p. 6.

²Statement by Brother Julius Edgar, Personal Interview, October 23, 1952.

³*Ibid.*, February 21, 1953.

⁴*Community History*, 1949.

⁵Letter from Brother Julius Edgar to the Freshman parents, September 2, 1949.

Virtually all the other administrative development by Brother Julius and continued equally by Brother Jerome can be viewed in the light of this emphasis on guidance. Thus in 1947 the first edition of a students' handbook was published and copies placed in the hands of each student.

The purpose of the book is to facilitate the orientation program and to assist the student in analysing and adopting the spirit of the school, and thereby enable him to become a better school citizen and lay a foundation on which to build moral, cultural and practical ideals.¹

The contents consisted mainly of the school calendar, a brief history of the school and of its patron Saint George, a listing of the objectives of the school, the faculty, the various courses offered, and the regulations in effect.

In his efforts to obtain ever better understanding between the parents and the faculty, Brother Julius instituted with the help of the Mothers' Club and the Fathers' Club an annual affair known as the Nazareth Conference. The first of these was held on March 21, 1949 in the school gymnasium.² The fact that more than 600 parents attended³ testified to their interest in the project. The topic proposed was "The Modern Home and the Catholic Ideal." The following panel discussed various phases of this topic: with Judge James M. Corcoran

¹Saint George High School, "Students Handbook, 1949-1950," Forward by Brother Julius Edgar.

²Community History, 1949.

³Saint George High School, Daily Bulletin, March 22, 1949.

as chairman, Mr. William Wilkins, Ph. D., a psychologist developed the viewpoint of "The Home and the Growing Boy;" Mr. Blair Varnes, an attorney, discussed "The Home and the Young Citizen;" Father Joseph Phoenix, C.M., Ph. D., treated points pertinent to "The Home and the Faith."¹ After the formal speeches by the members of the panel, questions from the floor were accepted. To encourage the timid, these questions were put in writing. The Nazareth Conference has continued as an annual affair; because of its name it is always scheduled for some day between the feast of St. Joseph on March 19 and the feast of the Annunciation on March 25.² This year's Conference with the topic "The Pupil, The Parish, and The Parent" saw Brother Julius, its initiator, return as one of the panel members.³

A method adopted during these years to provide for guidance in choosing a religious vocation was the establishment of

¹Saint George High School, "Program of the Nazareth Conference," March 21, 1949. Doctor Wilkins was at that time a professor in the education department at Loyola University. He is now associate professor of education at New York University and is also editor of the Personnel and Guidance Journal. Two of his brothers are alumni of Saint George, Albert from the charter class of 1931, and Ronald, now known as Brother Hubertus Albert, from the class of 1933. Another brother, Leroy, is a professor in the education department at St. Louis University. Both Leroy and William taught at St. George, the former from 1929 to 1931, the latter from 1931 to 1933. In addition, their sister, Mary, was librarian from 1933 to 1935.

²Saint George High School, The Dragon, March 20, 1953.
p. 1.

³Ibid.

what is known as the Benildus Club.¹ In this work two members of the faculty labored with special effectiveness—Brother Kieran Daniel and Mr. Hilary Keller.² By monthly meetings at which representatives of various religious congregations and of the diocesan priesthood talked, by frequent invitations to prayer for light in determining one's vocation, and by reestablishing the closed-retreat movement particularly among the seniors,³ great strides were made in informing the students of the many possibilities in this field and consequently in inciting many of them to try such a mode of life. A study of the table that follow, besides indicating the number of such vocations that have come from the school since its beginning, will show a great increase in the past five years.

¹On April 4, 1948 there took place in Rome the beatification of Brother Benildus, a French member of the Brothers of the Christian Schools who died in 1862. He had been especially active and successful in promoting vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

²Brother Daniel was stationed at Saint George from 1947 through 1952 (Community Register, Number 131). Mr. Keller has just recently on March 3, 1953 entered the novitiate of the Brothers at Glencoe, Missouri. On May 15, he was clothed with the religious habit and received the name of Brother James Daniel.

³The word "reestablish" is used because Brother Justinus Elzear had arranged for a closed retreat at Mayslake in 1931. It was not continued, however, after that year (Statement by Brother John Victorian, Personal Interview, August 4, 1952).

TABLE 7

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
FROM SAINT GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL

Brother	Took Habit	Brother	Took Habit
Hilbert Edmund ¹	1931	Leander Patrick	1947
Kiaran Felix ¹	1932	Lucius Peter	1947
Hilary Mark	1933	Luke Raymond	1947
Hubert Maurelian	1933	Hermeus Michael	1949
Hubertus Albert	1933	Hyacinth Andrew	1949
Hugh Bonaventure	1933	Leonard Peter	1949
Idonius Baldwin	1933	Leonidian Edwin	1949
Justus Philip ²	1933	Louis Horace	1949
Kevin Stanislaus	1933	Herbert Victor	1950
Leonidian Edwin ¹	1933 ³	Herman John	1950
Hugh Damian	1934	Hubert Fabian	1950
Isidore Conrad	1934	Hyacinth Nicholas	1950
Justin Gerard	1937	Jude Denis	1950
Hyacinth Frederick	1938	Julius Dominic	1950
Leopold Robert	1939	Junian Ronald	1950
Immanuel Pius	1941	Leonidus Pius	1950
Lucius James	1942	Herbert Francis	1951
Jovian Daniel	1943	Hugh Nicholas	1951
Joel Nicholas	1946	Hugh Robert	1952
Jerome Walbert	1947	Louis Timothy ²	1952
Joseph Gerald	1947	Jasper Joseph	1952
Jovitus Philip	1947		

¹Deceased.

²Brothers Justus Philip and Louis Timothy are uncle and nephew respectively.

³The class of 1933 has the largest representation in Tables 7 and 8--8Brothers and 2 priests.

TABLE 8

DIOCESAN AND RELIGIOUS PRIESTS
OF OTHER RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS
FROM SAINT GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL

Reverend	Year Graduated	Diocese	Religious Congregation
Andrew Grimes	1931	.	O.M.I. ¹
Hugh O'Reilly	1933	Chicago	
Albert Roemer	1933	La Crosse	
Louis T. Demmer	1934		C.S.V.
Howard V. Drolet	1936	Marquette	
James J. Duffy	1939		S.J.
Matthew Molinaro	1941	La Crosse	
Bernard McCauley	1942		O.P.
Aloysius A. Fabish	1945		O.P. ²

¹O.M.I.--Oblates of Mary Immaculate; C.S.V.--Congregation of St. Viator; S.J.--Society of Jesus; O.P.--Order of Preachers (Dominicans); O.C.S.O.--Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists); O.F.M.--Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans); C.M.--Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians); C.S.C.--Congregation of the Holy Cross.

²Father Fabish entered St. George in September of 1941 and transferred to Quigley Preparatory Seminary in September 1943. He was ordained May 26, 1953. (New World, May 22, 1953)

TABLE 9

SEMINARIANS AND CANDIDATES
FOR OTHER RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS
FROM SAINT GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL¹

Name	Year Graduated	Diocese	Religious Congregation
James Fox	1943		O.C.S.O.
Timothy Kelley	1943		S.J.
Thomas F. McMahon	1946		C.S.V.
Louis J. Grom	1946		O.F.M.
David Millon	1947		C.M.
Lawrence Burke	1949		O.P?
Daniel Carter	1949		O.P.
Richard Heydenburg	1949		O.P.
James Wing	1950		C.S.C.
Richard Fox	1951		O.C.S.O.
John McGill	1951	Chicago	
Michael Carey	1952	Chicago	
Walter Bermingham	1953		O.C.S.O.
Leonard Didier	1954		S.C.D.
Roderick Heidt	1954		O.M.I.
John Bosco	1955		O.M.I.
William Mobeck	1955		O.M.I.
Donald O'Connor	1955	Chicago	

¹Data for Tables 7, 8, and 9 were obtained from consultation of the Alumni Directory, and from lists drawn up and checked by Brother Kieran Daniel and Mr. Hilary Keller.

A program conducted as part of the work of the Benildus Club and which would seem to be more than coincidental in the large number of priestly and religious vocations recently harvested was the reestablishment of the closed-retreat program.¹ The following account gives most of the details in its development:

Brother Daniel and I talked of the value of introducing Senior members of the Benildus Club to the Lay Retreat movement early in 1950 . We thought it might be a good idea to have them make a closed retreat and think a little more about their vocations before graduation. We inquired as to how many would attend and had a good response. About 20 boys in the club decided to go, and the remaining 12 were other seniors who had expressed the desire to go. I wrote to Brother M. Joachim, O.C.S.O. the guest master of New Melleray Trappist Abbey in Peosta, Iowa, asking him if we could possibly have a Holy week retreat. (Several St. Mel boys had gone there during the fall.) Brother answered in the affirmative. The thirty-two boys, Brother Daniel, Brother Camillus and I went down on Wednesday of Holy Week and returned Holy Saturday evening. The boys made edifying retreats, and their approval of the retreat spread word of it throughout the school. We made arrangements with Brother Joachim to have the Holy Week retreat annually.

The next year there were so many callers that we had to turn several away. Many of those too late for the Trappist retreat made three day retreats at Villa Redeemer, a Redemptorist house just outside of Chicago.

In the 1951-1952 school year members of the Opus Dei contacted the school and offered us their house for retreats. As you probably recall, many of the boys took advantage of the offer from time to time throughout the year. Many again went to the Redemptorists and about three more were added to the number going to New Melleray.

¹It is not scientifically possible (within the limits of what is ordinarily meant in the use of that phrase) to demonstrate a cause-and-effect relationship between the two items. In a school imbued with the Catholic philosophy of education, however, it would seem axiomatic that the two are closely tied up with each other.

This year two groups have already gone to the Opus Dei and Brother Joachim has written from New Melleray to say that the entire lay population of this year's Holy Week retreat will be St. George boys. Consequently, fifteen more boys will be able to attend raising the number to fifty.

.....
 The over-call effect is that the boys make a good retreat before leaving school and are made aware of the value of the closed retreat. In that way they probably become apostles of the lay retreat movement and will continue to participate even after leaving school. We certainly hope they will.¹

Two events of historical import to the Brothers of the Christian Schools occurred during the post-war period--the centennial of the Brothers' first permanent community in the United States,² and the tercentenary of the birth of Saint John Baptist De La Salle, founder of the congregation.³

The first of these actually occurred in 1945, but its official commemoration was postponed until 1948.

Plans were also begun at this time [February, 1948] for the celebration of the Centennial of the Christian Brothers in the United States. This program was in conjunction with the three other communities in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The work was handled through the four alumni or PERSEVERANCE societies.⁴

The chronicle for that year goes on to say that

during April the promotion of the Centennial of the Brothers was stepped up by means of mailings and meetings. Students from St. George and the other schools were drilled for a pageant on the life of the Institute in America by Brother I. Francis, sub-director, of St.

¹Letter from Mr. Hilary Keller, February 17, 1953.

²This was established in Baltimore, September of 1945 (Hubert Gerard, Brother, F.S.C., ed., op. cit., p. 67).

³April 30, 1651 (ibid., p. 31).

⁴Community History, 1948.

George. April 25 a Holy Hour was conducted for the students of the four schools at Notre Dame Church as part of the student celebration of the Centennial. A Father-Son Communion Breakfast on this date at the school opened the Centennial.

May 1 and 2 were the days when the Centennial was highlighted by the presence of the Most Honorable Superior General, Brother Athanese Emile and the Assistant Superior General, Brother E. Victor. Solemn High Mass at the Cathedral, a sermon by the Cardinal ...a banquet attended by the Mayor of Chicago and a multitude of former students and friends and a reception at the Civic Opera Building highlighted by a talk by the Governor of Illinois,...marked this great occasion for the Brothers at St. George.¹

The tercentennial celebration held during the spring of 1951 consisted of the following ceremonies:

During this LaSalle year the school tried to augment devotion to our holy Founder. The entire Senior class attended a Solemn Pontifical mass in honor of the Saint at the Cathedral where Cardinal Stritch preached a sermon on the Holy Founder.²

Inaugurated in connection with the centennial celebration of 1948 and continued annually since by the Speech Department was the Saint De La Salle Oratorical Contest.

The St. De La Salle Oratorical Contest, held every year in conjunction with the feast of St. John Baptist De La Salle May 15 has a two-fold purpose: to acquaint students with the life and educational contributions of the Founder of the Christian Brothers, and to give an opportunity to the students to display their forensic ability. The winner of this contest is the school entry in the scholarship foundation held every year at De La Salle High School.³

¹Ibid.

²Ibid., 1951.

³Saint George High School, Students' Handbook, 1952-53,

TABLE 10

WINNERS OF THE SAINT DE LA SALLE ORATORICAL CONTEST¹

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>
Robert Hackett	1948
James Murray	1949
Bernard Rodgers	1950
Terrence Tynan	1951
Henry Dold and Richard Dahl	1952

One of the prime objectives of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is to provide free schooling for poor pupils. In fact where surrounding economic and social conditions permit, this gratuity of teaching is of strict obligation.² During the early years of the school efforts in this direction had consisted mainly in the award of scholarships as tied in with the recruiting program.³

In 1947, however, through the cooperation of the Knights of Columbus in Evanston acting through the local Newman Council, the first steps were taken to set up a scholarship fund that would pay for a boy recommended by the pastors of the four Catholic parishes in Evanston. Each pastor would have his turn for a recommendation once in every four years.⁴ The fund was to

¹Ibid., p. 62.

²Brothers of the Christian Schools, Common Rules and Constitutions (Rome: 1947), p. 31.

³Cf. pp. 61, 62.

⁴Even before this time the Knights had been giving \$500 annually (Articles of Agreement between Newman Council and St. George High School as to Scholarship Fund, September 1, 1947).

consist of a sum of \$10,000 payable in four annual installments of \$2500 each, beginning on September 1, 1947.¹

In March of 1949 a boxing show was sponsored in the school gymnasium by the Council as part of the financing of this scholarship fund.² The payment of the fund was completed in the fall of 1950 as per the original schedule of payments.

Eighteen months later the agreement was revised as to the manner of awarding the scholarship: the recipient was to be designated by a committee of the Council after they have received recommendations from the various pastors.³

Another scholarship was provided by the Holy Name Society of Saint Henry's Parish at 6300 Hoyne Avenue in Chicago. Through it two boys were taken care of in the term opening September, 1951.⁴

Finally the school authorities have donated a scholarship in connection with the drive for subscriptions to the New World, the official Catholic paper for the Archdiocese of Chicago

¹"Resolution in regard to St. George High School Scholarship Fund," negotiated between Newman Council, Knights of Columbus and St. George High School.

²Community History, 1949.

³Articles of Agreement between Newman Council, Knights of Columbus and St. George High School as to Scholarship Fund; amended March 25, 1952.

⁴Letter from John Walsh, secretary of Saint Henry's Holy Name Society, January 16, 1951.

and the Diocese of Joliet. This Scholarship was donated at the opening of the school term in 1952; the recipient is to be designated by the editor of the New World.¹

Reference has been made to the fact that the curriculum has been geared mainly to the college-preparatory student.² The following table indicates why this has been done:

TABLE 11
SAINT GEORGE GRADUATES WHO WENT TO COLLEGE³

Year	Number of Graduates	Number Who Went to College	Per Cent
1931	118	72	61.0
1932	146	84	57.6
1933	118	38	32.2
1934	90	55	61.1
1935	107	35	32.8
1936	97	46	47.5
1937	80	43	53.7
1938	86	41	47.7
1939	112	64	57.2
1940	159	75	47.0
1941	106	58	54.7
1942	126	43	34.2
1943	120	60	50.0
1944	121	49	40.5
1945	118	53	44.9
1946	135	86	63.7
1947	158 ³	110	69.6
1948	204	190	93.2
1949	199	152	75.9
1950	214	175	81.7
1951	270	195	72.2
1952	238	- 4	-
Total	3122	1724	59.8

¹Letter from Rev. T.A. Meehan, editor, Sept. 12, 1952.

²Cf. p. 79/

³Data for this table were obtained from consultation of the reports submitted annually to the University of Illinois during these years. It will be noted for the most part that the

An account of a special adaptation of the summer-school session will close out the story of the educational developments in the post-war period. This session, ordinarily reserved for those who had failed during the previous school year in one or more subjects, was in the summer of 1946 opened to a special group of the incoming Freshmen. It consisted of those who had scored poorly on placement tests. Special courses were given to them in arithmetic, English fundamentals, and remedial reading. Studies of the orientation and of the perseverance rate of this group in high school showed a considerable improvement over that of similar low-scoring groups in the years previous to the institution of the program.¹

years during which less than half of the graduates went on to college occurred precisely during the times of the economic depression and the years of World War II.

⁴An accurate count here is not available at the moment because so many of the graduates asked for several transcripts of credits each. Thus the registrar was not able to determine completely at which college they enrolled or whether all those who so asked ever enrolled. (Letter from Brother Hyacinth Bernard of the Saint George faculty, April 13, 1953)

¹These studies were made by Brothers Jerome De La Salle and by Brother Lucius Michael, both of whom served as Assistant Principals to Brother Julius (Statement by Brother Lucius Michael, Personal Interview, May 16, 1953).

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Saint George High School has justified the prophetic words of His Excellency, Archbishop Hoban, in its material growth to a school enrolling at present almost 1200 pupils.¹ This material growth, however, has its reason for existence only if the school has aimed to fulfill its educational purposes.

This study has traced the story of the inception of the school through the various stages of proposal, blue-print, and construction. The vigorous and dynamic leadership of Brother Justinus Elzear in the work of school organization and particularly in the field of co-curricular and auxiliary activities has been noted. His difficulties in the matter of adequate finances for his ambitious program have been placed on record.

The work of Brother Lawrence David consisted for the most part in consolidating the beginnings of Brother Elzear. His successful efforts in solving the problem of school finances involved mainly a more intensified recruiting program, a retrenchment of co-curricular activities regretfully undertaken but considered necessary in view of the situation, promotion of an invitational Christmas basketball tournament as a means of

¹Cf. p. 58.

advertising and as a source of income. He obtained a certificate of accreditation from the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges for the academic program. He had a faculty during these years composed of many outstanding teachers of whom the following have received special commendations: Brothers Lawrence Sixtus, John Joseph, and Hector Vincent. Although the band was discontinued, musical education was provided through the medium of a glee club.

Brother Hilary Bernard's term was noteworthy for an efficiently-run school and for the promotion of interest in and practical aid to the missionary work of the Catholic Church through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Brother Ignatius Patrick continued the efficient management of the school adapting it to war-time needs and situations. He developed a healthy interest in athletics, both interscholastic and intramural, the latter phase being closely associated with the physical education program set up by Mr. Max Burnell, appointed as athletic director at this time. Towards the end of Brother Patrick's term, title to the school passed from the Archdiocese to the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

With the close of the war and the appointment of Brother Julius Edgar as principal of the school and director of the community, the situation was ripe for an expansion of the facilities and services offered by the school. An annual average increase of more than 70 students was at once the result of and cause for much expansion. Physical improvements consisted in a re-location of the library to provide more classrooms and in the building

of the new residence for the community of Christian Brothers. These projects completed, the school was able to accommodate 350 more students.

Along with physical expansion there went a corresponding educational growth. Brother Julius communicated his own great interest in guidance to his faculty through the media of faculty departmental meetings, through a development and refining of the "advisory" system of class scheduling begun by Brother Patrick, through the publication of a students' handbook, establishment of a Nazareth Conference, and the stimulation of interest in religious and priestly vocations by means of the Benildus Club and the promotion of closed retreats.

The centennial of the arrival of the Christian Brothers in the United States was celebrated in 1948, and one result of this event was the establishment of the Saint De La Salle Oratorical Contest. Various scholarship funds were set up through the generous cooperation from Newman Council of the Knights of Columbus and from the Holy Name Society of Saint Henry's Parish, as well as from the desires of the school authorities to give recognition to the leaders in promoting subscriptions to the New World, the official Catholic paper for the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet.

Little has been said of the work of Brother Jerome De La Salle because of the shortness of his term and because of the proximity in time of this writing to that period. Moreover his educational thinking and planning have closely paralleled that

of Brother Julius so that the programs instituted by the latter have not changed in any significant details.

What should be recommended to improve the caliber of education offered by Saint George High School? The evaluations of that education by alumni, by parents, by inspectors, and by archdiocesan authorities agree in its essential soundness. Whatever can be improved, therefore, is a matter of details, of a slight shift in emphasis here and there.

The matter of emphasis immediately brings to the fore a problem very much discussed at the present day, namely, that of the proper emphasis on athletics. It has sometimes been charged that there is over-emphasis of this phase of education at Saint George. Basis for this charge seems to be any or all of the following elements: there have been particularly in the last ten years, many successful teams at the school, a large number of the student body are candidates for positions on these teams, hours for practice are long and demanding, student interest is aroused to a fever pitch, especially at the time of important games, and more than 75% of school publicity on the local newspapers concerns athletic teams.¹

Other factors, however, should be considered. It has always been a school policy that in the enrollment of Freshmen, it is "first come, first served."² In addition the members of

¹An examination of scrapbooks kept in the school files and covering the period 1943-48 furnished the documentation for this statement.

²Statement by Brother Julius Edgar, Personal Interview, May 15, 1953.

these teams are strictly supervised, particularly with regard to their scholastic grades.¹ Finally in the difficult transition from high school to college, care has been taken to avoid recently-publicized abuses.²

Athletics then, has not been over-emphasized. It may only seem that way to some because of the fact that circumstances beyond the control of the school authorities have prevented the development of facilities to further other equally worthwhile activities. Stated briefly, the problem is not over-emphasis of athletics as it is under-emphasis of these other activities. Specifically there is concern about the activities that further the social and cultural mission of the school. Speech work, dramatics, music, student assemblies and kindred fields have suffered from a number of physical limitations--particularly, the lack of an auditorium. "The auditorium serves an essential function in the modern high school"³ may be putting the problem tritely, but the school authorities are quite aware of it. In fact steps are being considered to bring an auditorium to a realization.⁴

A better organized public relations program would be of

¹Letter from Mr. Max Burnell, March 24, 1953.

²Ibid.

³Edmonson, J.B., Roemer, Joseph, and Bacon, Francis L. The Administration of the Modern Secondary School, New York: Macmillan, 1950, p. 137.

⁴Statement by Brother Jerome De La Salle to the Saint George Fathers' Club, September 14, 1951.

great service to the school. Care should be taken to give to the public a more balanced view of the school's activities instead of the distorted view that exists at present and to which reference has already been made in speaking of athletic publicity.¹

Another desideratum is the lightening of teacher loads. Although the number of religious vocations has increased greatly in the past few years, there is still a relative shortage in comparison with the enrollments in schools staffed by the Brothers of the Christian Schools throughout the Midwest.² This, too, is a situation over which at the moment, the school authorities have little or no control.

An inadequacy that still needs attention is the insufficiency of residential facilities for the number of Brothers needed to staff the school properly. An expedient adopted as a temporary solution for the school year of 1953-54 involves again the use of one of the small rooms in the school as a bedroom.³ Since office space and rooms for counselling are at a premium in the school building, it is to be hoped that this admitted improvisation will have but a short existence. The present residence can admit of additions at the south end, and there is some ground for hoping that conditions will permit in the not too distant future of a suitable adjustment in this regard.

¹Of. p. 112.

²Statement by Brother Philip, Provincial, Personal Interview, April 26, 1953.

³Statement by Brother Jude Aloysius, Personal Interview, December 27, 1952.

A final recommendation concerns the acquisition of adequate chapel facilities for the student body. At present the Brothers' community chapel is available to the students, but there are serious drawbacks in this procedure, the main one being that a chapel capable of accommodating but 35 people is hardly appropriate for a student body of more than 1100. The plan proposed in 1946 for a students' chapel certainly deserves reexamination at this time.¹ Measures are being considered at the moment as to the proper solution of this problem.²

The chronicle of the first twenty-five years in the history of Saint George High School thus comes to an end. The story has been a generally peaceful one. Peace, however, is not to be equated with somnolency. Through all these years there has existed a constant awareness by the administration and faculty of what is stated as the fundamental objective of the school: "to bring out the best in the boy, to aid in developing him mentally, morally, and physically."³ The existence of that awareness and a consequent alertness to whatever will improve its educational work augurs well for the continued success of the high school named after him who is "an inspiring model of saintly Christian manhood,"⁴ Saint George.

¹Cf. p. 91.

²Statement by Brother Jude Aloysius, Personal Interview, December 27, 1952.

³Saint George High School, Students' Handbook, 1952-53
p. 10

⁴Ibid., p. 9.

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- Jude Aloysius, Brother, F.S.C. December 27, 1952.
- Julius, Edgar, Brother, F.S.C. October 23, 1952; October 24, 1952; December 9, 1952.
- Lawrence David, Brother, F.S.C. August 5, 1952
- Leo Luke, Brother, F.S.C. March 15, 1953.
- Leopold, Julian, Brother, F.S.C., Former Provincial. August 7, 1951.
- Lucius Michael, Brother, F.S.C. May 16, 1953.
- McCarthy, Joseph. July 21, 1952.
- Morrison, Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph P. December 27, 1952.
- Octavien Jean, Brother, F.S.C. July 31, 1952.
- Plassmeyer, Vincent, Superintendent of Buildings at Fontbonne College, Clayton, Missouri. December 13, 1952.
- Rearden, Patrick, July 12, 1952.

Illustrative Materials

- Chicago Architectural Photographing Company. Twenty-three Pictures of the Construction of Saint George High School. Taken from February 23, 1927 up to August 15, 1927.
- Cooke, Thomas Edward, Architect. Job no. 4615. Plans for the New Location of the Library. August 16, 1946.
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- O'Meara, P.M. and Associates. "Brothers' House for Saint George High School." December 13, 1944; revised July 7, 1945.
- Schmitt, Albert. "Plat of Survey" (Map of the School Property with dimensions and street boundaries indicated). Service Surveying and Engineering Company: August 21, 1928.
- Sitwell, Studio, Map of the City of Evanston, Horder's inc.: Chicago.