

# Risk *&* Hope

*An early history of  
Mercy College of Detroit*

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1941-1966

Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM



A faint watermark of the University of Detroit Mercy logo is visible in the background, featuring a circular emblem with two figures and Latin text.

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# Risk & Hope

An early history of  
Mercy College of Detroit

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by Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM

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In loving memory of



Mother Mary Carmelita Manning  
*Foundress,  
Mercy College*



Sister Mary Patricia Garvey  
(President 1941 - 1951)



Sister Mary Lucille Middleton  
(President 1952 - 1967)

and

**Risk & Hope:**  
*An Early History of Mercy College of Detroit*  
**1941-1966**

by Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM

Published by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Regional Community of Detroit

*in cooperation with*

University of Detroit Mercy

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## THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM



is  
like a child's kite  
flung to the sky  
bobbling and weaving,  
arching, diving,  
dancing and plummeting  
by turn,  
until a sweet wind  
breasts its underside  
and it rightens and soars,  
high and unfettered,  
its serenity gracing  
the countryside.



*Mary Vita Pandolfo, RSM*



## FOREWORD

*“When the constant floods overwhelmed us,  
Lord, we cried out;  
You flew to us on the wings of the Cherubim;  
You set us free on the open winds.”*

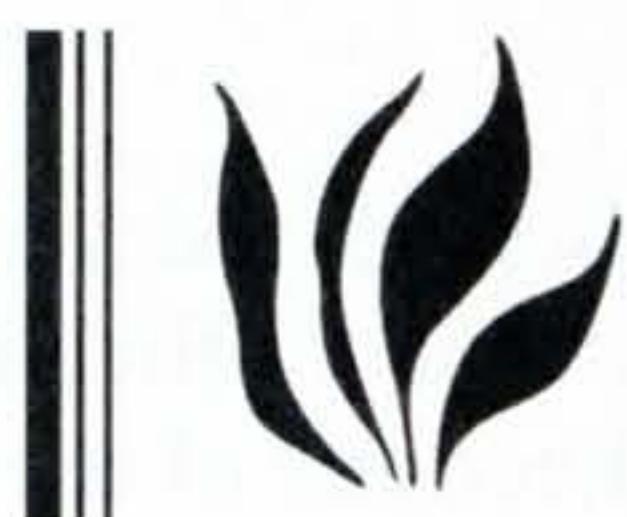
PSALM 18

This book presents the history of the first 25 years of a private college. It is not a definitive history, nor is it official. Rather, it consists of my impressions and recollections of the beginnings and the evolution of Mercy College of Detroit, with the support of brief research.

Like most of the works of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Mercy College was conceived in response to a need. It survived because of risk and hope. Every effort has been made in this manuscript, therefore, to name and honor the Sisters of Mercy who played a strategic role in its development. As first Academic Dean, I had a front row, reserved seat, to observe all its revolutions and evolutions.

This bit of prose would never have reached actuality, however, were it not for the kindness and generosity of Sister Elizabeth LaForest in typing and editing this manuscript. Deep gratitude is also due to Sisters Mary Elise Michelin, Mary Lucy McDonald and Mary Vita Pandolfo for reading and critiquing the manuscript; to Elaine Sova for secretarial assistance; to Michaeleen Lewandowski for archival support; and to Rhonda DeLong for editing the final copy.

Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM



## MERCY COLLEGE: EARLY HISTORY

**L**ike all enduring institutions, Mercy College was forged in struggle, hard work and vital creativity. To understand its determination to survive and to thrive, it is helpful to understand the years preceding the college's opening at 8200 West Outer Drive in northwest Detroit.

The initial amalgamation of the Sisters of Mercy in the United States occurred on August 28, 1929, when 39 of the country's 60 motherhouses joined the group, resulting in a union of 45 congregations. The consolidation of canonical, apostolic and financial concerns benefited especially the smaller communities working in remote regions of the country. Despite the lack of cooperation of 16 larger, well-established communities, the amalgamation flourished.

Under the leadership of Mother Mary Carmelita Hartman, the first Mother General, the amalgamation or union was divided into nine geographical provinces. Each province, of necessity, established a motherhouse wherein regional, canonical and financial concerns could be addressed and where aspirants to the community could be housed and educated. A college was generally considered essential to meet the educational needs of each multi-state region.

In 1929, the Detroit area was part of the Province of Cincinnati, but within 11 years the Province grew to twice its original size. Accordingly, in 1940, at the persuasion of Mother Mary Carmelita

Manning, who was Provincial of the Province of Cincinnati, Mother Mary Carmelita Hartman requested and received permission from Rome to establish the Province of Detroit.

Six years earlier, Mother Carmelita Manning, well aware of the financial and professional difficulties facing hospitals and their affiliated nursing schools, had combined the resources of six Michigan hospitals and established one of the first central schools of nursing in the state. The hospitals were St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and Mercywood Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Ann Arbor; Leila Y. Post Hospital, Battle Creek; Mercy Hospital, Jackson; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Detroit.

The new school, known as Mercy College of Nursing, was incorporated under the laws of the state of Michigan as a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with all its concomitant privileges. It was based in a multi-story building on East Grand Boulevard, across the street from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Even in 1934, Mother Carmelita had the foresight to fortify this fledgling institution with wide general and state powers to grant degrees. She recognized that the College would have to meet other professional requirements, but believed that these could be met as the College developed. What she did not anticipate were challenges and confrontations from already established local educational institutions.

As long as the title Mercy College of Nursing was used in all publicity, and as long as the school was attached by geographical scope to a hospital, Mercy College of Nursing was accepted as an integral part of the Detroit scene. But when Mercy College became a presence in its own right, debate and conflict arose over its actual intent, its publicized intent, and its legal intent.

Mother Carmelita understood but dismissed the fears of neighboring Catholic colleges that another institution would limit their growth. She knew that these fears had impelled them to seek the support of the region's Catholic hierarchy and the State Licensure Board to restrict the new college to a narrow professional role of nursing, nursing education and other paramedical courses. Still, aware of the need to prepare the postulants and novices to carry on the works of Mercy, Mother Carmelita envisioned none but the best, most widely recognized institution offering a complete spectrum of arts and sciences, with freedom to expand and grow. Despite all the caveats and constraints, Mother Carmelita forged optimistically

ahead, confronting each obstacle with fortitude and resolution.

As soon as the state authority in Lansing seemed willing to approve a change in the college's location from East Grand Boulevard, Mother Carmelita and her assistant, Mother Mary Raymund O'Leary, began to look for a suitable location for a new motherhouse, novitiate and college.

Traveling west on Outer Drive, the pair drove past Southfield Road. Mother Carmelita observed, "This area looks better and better. We will have the Little Sisters of the Poor to our left, and the Dominicans and Benedictines to the south. Now, if we can get this nice piece of land over here."

Speaking to the driver, she said, "Stop here, Fred, if you will. We want to walk over and read the sign."

On the large lot there was one beautiful big tree on which a piece of white paper fluttered. Indeed, the property—40 acres in all—was for sale. Apparently the owner had been growing cabbage in great abundance on the spot.

"Now where will I grow my cabbages?" lamented the owner, as he passed the deed to Mother Carmelita one week later.

"You'll find another field," she soothed. "We intend to grow our own little cabbages here, just as you did."

She smiled warmly and left.

The man looked puzzled, and Mother Raymund heard him mutter, "I could have grown the cabbages for her. Why did she have to buy the whole field?"

Mother Carmelita's next step was to complete a contract with Charles Sullivan of the A. Butler Company of Minneapolis. She gave them one year to build the flagship of her project.

The new college at 8200 West Outer Drive was scheduled to open September 8, 1941. Early in May of that year, Sister Mary Patricia Garvey introduced to the State Board of Education in Lansing the College's Board of Trustees: Mother Mary Carmelita Manning, President; Mother Mary Raymund O'Leary, Vice-President; Sister Mary Stanislas Poulin, Trustee; Sister Mary Immaculata Lamey, Trustee; Sister Mary Annette Cretzmeyer, Secretary; and Sister Marie Bernard Masterson, Treasurer. She also informed Lansing of the College's administration: Sister Mary Patricia Garvey, President; Sister Mary Justine Sabourin, Academic Dean; Sister Kathleen Mary Reilly, Registrar; Mary E. Kelly, Personnel Director; Eileen Patterson, Librarian; and Sister Mary Mercy Metevier, Business Manager.

To alert the public to the September opening, Sister Mary Patricia sent an advertisement to *The Michigan Catholic* describing Mercy College as a general Liberal Arts and Sciences College, open to all young ladies. Immediately, overt confrontation broke out. The office of the Most Reverend Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, at the persuasion of officials of other local Catholic colleges, called to remind Mother Carmelita of a conversation held in his office prior to the establishment of the new college. He reiterated his restricted understanding of the situation: "The purpose of Mercy College is to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Education and to train elementary and secondary teachers for the Mercy community."

This call was reinforced by a letter from the Archdiocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools, the Reverend Carroll F. Deady, in August 1941, when the original advertisement (rather than a corrected copy) appeared once more in *The Michigan Catholic*.

Responding to his letter on August 17, Mother Carmelita wrote: "Mercy College is not taking lay students for education, but believes it is better to explain this to the inquiring student rather than publicize it in the newspaper." She explained the change of location: "It is not our intention to run in competition with Marygrove or the University of Detroit. We wish to cooperate in every way with you...and we will carry out the Archbishop's wishes in every respect."

While stating her opinion and compliance, Mother Carmelita never relinquished her vision of the College functioning to the fullest extent according to its laws of incorporation.

Meanwhile, Sister Patricia sought appropriate professional recognitions where available: affiliation with the Catholic University of America and constituent membership with the National Catholic Education Association.

At the same time, there was internal struggle among the component schools of nursing that comprised Mercy College of Nursing and the chief executive officers of the affiliated hospitals. Should the Central School of Nursing seek accreditation from the Catholic Hospital Association or from the League of Nursing Education? Once the Central School realized that it would be able to determine the ethical and philosophical content of its curricula, it applied to the League of Nursing Education, since each hospital was already a member of the Catholic Hospital Association.

By July 1941, the College's new building had already taken form and potential enrollees were knocking at the door. Around this time,

Sister Mary Justine Sabourin, then at the University of Notre Dame summer school, was informed by Sister Patricia that she would be the first Academic Dean of the new college. Sister Patricia, who was also at Notre Dame that summer as mentor for the Sisters of Mercy, mentioned that she had prepared a 1941-42 catalogue and had hired several faculty members and a good librarian.

Sister Mary Justine described her first view of the College and her initial efforts in higher administration:

Mr. Frederick Burke, our chauffeur, arrived at Notre Dame on August 6, 1941, in a long black Buick Century, to drive Sister Patricia and me to Detroit.

My first view of the College was a sea of black mud criss-crossed here and there by tracks of heavy machinery.

Practically in the center was a very plain, cream-colored block building of five stories. Otherwise there was not a speck of color—not even a green weed. A paved road led to the front door.

As we opened the door, I gazed with consternation at the marble stacked on the lobby floor. Beyond the foyer I could see the unfinished chapel; to the left, unfinished offices. Workmen were jostling each other trying to meet the September 1 deadline.



*The first, and central, structure on the Mercy College campus was the Provincial House and Administration Building, completed just in time for the beginning of classes in Fall 1941. Today the building is used primarily for administrative offices and classrooms, and is connected to the Library and the Science Center on its north side.*

I turned to Sister Patricia and asked, "Did you say we are opening our doors to college students on September first? Did you also say we're celebrating Mother Raymund's Silver Jubilee on August 26—this August 26?"

"No," replied Sister Patricia, apparently unalarmed, "I did not say it. Mother Carmelita said it, and I believe her. The residence halls are ready for 60 young ladies; the cafeteria is set up for meals; the classrooms are ready; the faculty have been interviewed and are ready to teach; the College administration is complete now that we are here. We're ready to begin tomorrow."

I could only look at our College President in amazement. In direct proportion to the honor bestowed on me as first Academic Dean of Mercy College was the awkward feeling of unpreparedness for the task before me.

And so it was ready by August 26. Bolstered by several midnight dinners served personally to the work crew by Mother Carmelita and Mother Raymund, the chapel was finished. The marble was laid in the foyer. No one had told the Dean that one of her functions prior to the opening of the school would be to scrub and wax the sanctuary floor on her hands and knees and to decorate the main altar with a profusion of red roses for the first Jubilee Mass celebration at Mercy College. No one had told her she would have to supervise the arrangement of table settings for 300 guests in the Great Hall. No one had told her she would be responsible for the Jubilee dinner program.

A few days after the Jubilee celebration, the Provincial Council drove to Cincinnati for the celebration of Sister Mary Scholastica Griffin's Silver Jubilee. It was suggested that I go along and meet for the day with Sister Mary Virginia Sullivan, Dean of Our Lady of Cincinnati College, from whom I might pick up some useful points for my fast-approaching role in Detroit. When Sister Virginia and I now meet occasionally, we still laugh over my "Dean-for-a-Day" orientation.

Now that I think of it in retrospect, for a small College of

possibly 200 prospective enrollees, we had an unconventional administrative organization. Sister Mary Immaculata Lamey, a member of the Provincial Council, was named Dean of Nursing, thereby placing her over at least 50 percent of the new students; Sister Mary Lidwina Reps had inherited from Sister Mary Cecilia Williams the role of liaison with the State Teacher Certification office so, in a manner of speaking, she took over the programming and counseling of all the Sisters in Teacher Education—another 40 percent. To all intents and purposes, she was the Dean of Teacher Education. So what was left? The final 10 percent comprised one transfer senior hoping to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology, a few enrollees in Medical Record Library Science, four in Medical Technology, and a few prospects in X-ray Technology.

I was deeply concerned about a tried-and-true course of study for each program under my immediate supervision. In addition to combing through all available catalogues for related curricula, I wrote to the professional societies which eventually certified the degree holder to practice in each particular field. These organizations were most helpful, not only in listing a program of required subjects, but also in suggesting that I contact particular universities sponsoring top-level programs in these fields.

Interestingly enough, degree programs in these fields were few and far between. Most, like nursing, were two-year or three-year certification programs. There were no other degree programs in Medical Record Library Science.

Mercy College was the first to offer such a degree and was for many years the only one in Michigan. My final step was to seek the advice and approval of the finished programs by the clinical directors at our College Hospital.

Although immersed in the study and production of strong freshman-year programs for each of the four fields for which I was responsible, I still had time to interview a candidate for House Mother. Irene Allshouse was a delightful and cultured lady, a widow, and long-time friend and associate of Mother Carmelita. I knew that the interview with

her was merely window-dressing, since the employment arrangements had already been considered and signed in early June. I also took the time to supervise the finishing touches to the young ladies' bedrooms and parlors.

Once the College facilities were ready for incoming students, attention was focused on getting the rest of the building ready for the transfer of the novitiate from Dubuque, Iowa, to Detroit. At that time the novitiate numbered about 40, but 18 new candidates were expected September 8.

The entire third floor of the College, reserved for the novitiate, consisted of a large assembly room, 30 double bedrooms, a sewing room, a study and a library.

One day in preparation for the novices, two Sisters were making the beds. Unbeknownst to them, a woman had wandered in off the street, and as fast as they made the beds, she unmade them. It took a deal of persuasion to get her to leave the premises. Another day, a visitor from the streets came in to sprinkle each room liberally with holy water. By that time the Sisters were so used to seeing strangers in their midst that this particular event came and went without causing a flap in the daily routine.

One exceedingly warm fall day in 1941, a small dirty puppy dragged itself onto the campus from Outer Drive. It had apparently been thrown from a passing car. Painfully, the little fellow limped down the driveway and took shelter in the garage. There Mr. Burke, the campus caretaker, found him. Eventually healed by appropriate medication, nourishing food, and loving care, "Plato" was restored to full health and his trust in people. His name-giver and one of his frequent visitors was Sister Patricia, who usually stayed to pet him and talk to him. Seated on a crate near his pen, she gently talked to him in Latin, in Greek, in German, and in English until finally he came out of his corner and cocked an interested ear.

One day, to her surprise, Sister Patricia found Plato right behind her as she entered her office. Since she did not have time just then to take him back to the garage, she

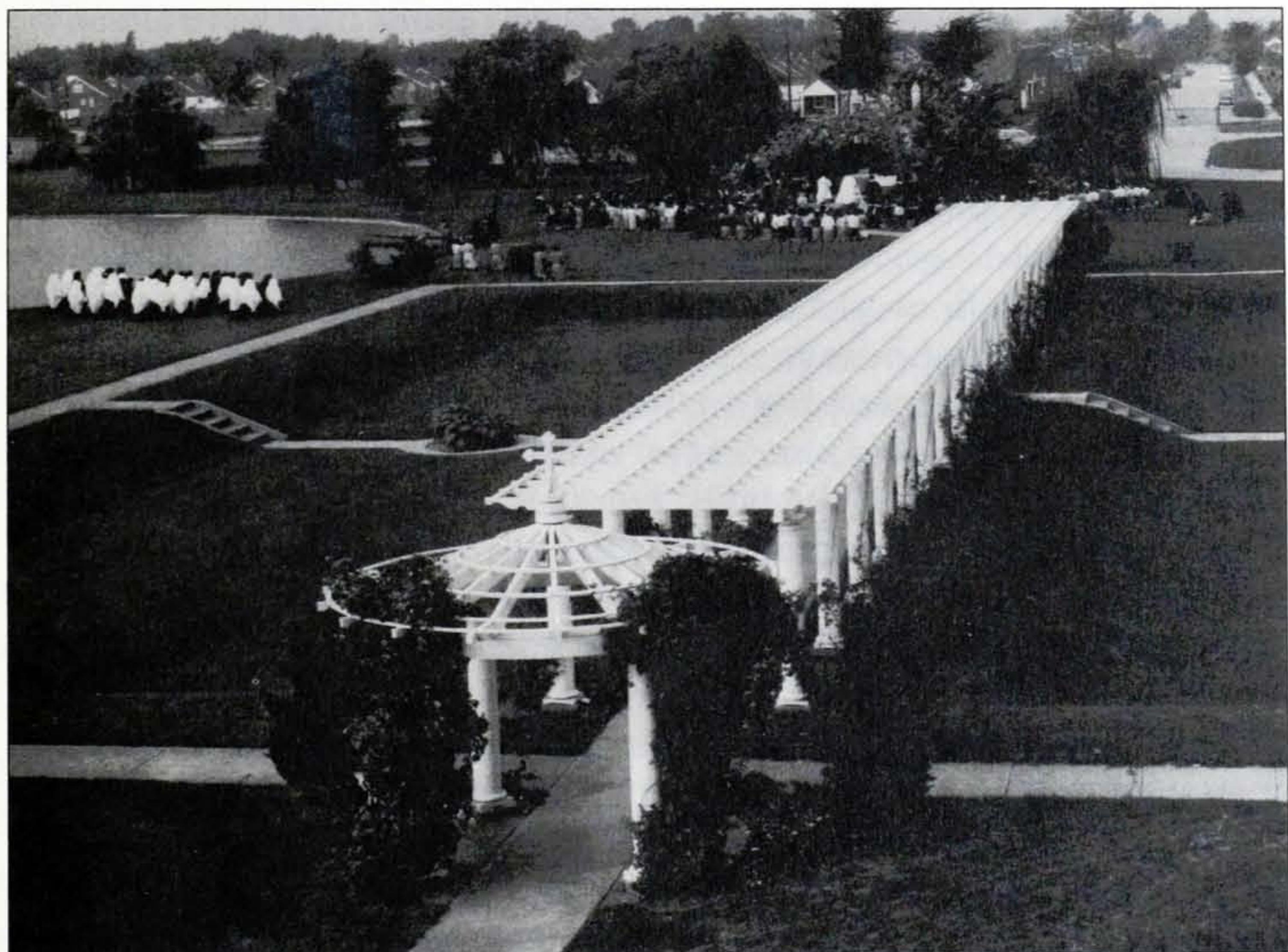
coaxed him under her desk where she hoped he would lie quietly while she kept her appointments. As she became more immersed in her conversation, Sister Patricia sat back comfortably in her chair, crossed her knees and began to swing her foot. That was Plato's signal to start wagging his tail—tap-tap-tap—in ever increasing doggy fervor until he revealed his secret hiding place to Sister Patricia's visitors. Plato had been well conditioned. This was only the first of Plato's almost daily visits to the President's office. He was a smart little dog. He knew his place was under the desk and went there unswervingly after sniffing around a bit. But he could not break the habit of responding to the swinging foot.

The beautification of the grounds was also taking place in those early days. A rose arbor led to an exact replica of the Lourdes grotto. A belvedere with ample room for an orchestra and/or dramatic presentations was erected in the northwestern section of the campus. An artificial lake sprang up overnight. I remember falling asleep with the sound of water gushing from somewhere. In the morning there was a two-acre lake near the grotto. Before I slept again, the lake had acquired two swans, a mooring dock, and a boat. In the next few days acres of sod were laid, flowers planted in the sunken garden near the rose arbor, flowering shrubs set around the front of the building and the grotto. On the southeast lawn a beautiful shrine of Mary, Mother and Queen was erected with steps where one could sit and pray or study.

Perhaps no one has captured the beauty and serenity of the campus as did Monsignor Francis Schultz of Grand Rapids, who wrote after a visit:

During the last week we had the good fortune to visit the new Mother House of the Sisters of Mercy in Detroit on Outer Drive, and it was a revelation to see with what precision and detail the whole magnificent structure was thought out to provide for the many and various needs of an institution of its kind. With Mother House, novitiate and collegiate all in one, with laboratories, libraries, museum and chapel, with nursing, teaching and research, with

religion, quiet and solitude dominating the surroundings and entourage, with pastoral and monastic blends of life and occupations, all were woven into one harmonious whole that left very little to be desired as far as appointment and detail were concerned. Art and science went hand in hand in providing a center and home for the women of the order, and no one can wander through its corridors or stop to reflect on its conveniences but will get inspiration and satisfaction in the happy groupings of its departments and arrangement for its multiplied activities. The grounds, moreover, are set out with perambulatories and pagodas, shrines, and bowers, and in a few years it will be one of the religious attractions of the city. The Sisters are to be congratulated on the taste, the artistry and genius in the selection and location, and Detroit is



*The Rose Arbor (center) and the lake (left) contributed significantly to the beauty and ambiance of the Mercy College campus in the early years. They were later removed to make room for the construction of Manning Hall and Ward Conference Center.*

some richer and religion happy in finding another place and occasion to show its soul and demonstrate to the world what it has to offer society, mankind and the world. It was Gerald Griffin who said that God hid away from the world the beauties of the religious life lest all the world would seek refuge therein. Be that as it may, the Sisters of Mercy have a home and Mother House of which they can be proud and a center of religion and culture that ranks with the best.

At its founding, Mercy College was an imposing five-story Gothic structure with a center square tower projecting two stories above the rest of the building. Housed in the tower were loudspeakers to broadcast the Angelus and organ music from the chapel, as well as programs originating from the control room in the Speech and Drama Department. Even before the regular operation of the sweet-sounding carillon, neighbors within listening distance were already praising or complaining about possible disruptions of "harmony" or "noise." To pacify all, the sisters decided to broadcast the Angelus only on Saturday evening, to accompany the graduates at commencement, to present Christmas music intermittently during the December holidays, and, at the request of a nearby school principal, to accompany a fireworks display in an adjacent park with patriotic songs. This arrangement continued until it was necessary to transform the tower into sleeping quarters for the growing novitiate.

Earlier, only the doves and a few other hardy birds had been disturbed by the sound of the bells. For a few hours they fluttered about and scolded, but finally returned to their roosts. In the end, however, no one wanted to risk the delicate tranquility of potential community candidates who had come from Dubuque to their new home in Detroit on August 28, 1941, so the bells were silenced.

The story of Mercy College cannot be told without a tribute to a man who walked step-by-step with the Sisters of Mercy from the beginning. Frederick Burke was only 17 when Mother Carmelita, then based in Cincinnati, arranged to get his chauffeur's license so that he might become the Sisters' official chauffeur, since at that time the Sisters did not drive. With time—concurrent with his transfer to the new Province of Detroit—his responsibilities increased. He became the over-all factotum of the buildings and grounds at 8200 West Outer Drive.

Fred learned to do much of the maintenance by himself, efficient-

ly and cost-effectively. He was by inclination a mechanic, a gardener, a grounds-keeper and a security officer. By nature, he was a gentleman of the highest integrity—honest and dependable—managing the community's property with the care and interest he would eventually give his own home.

While Fred maintained the physical aspects of the College, the professional growth of the young institution claimed the attention of the administration. Recognizing the need to update organizations about its new location and seek further memberships before classes began, the President secured the recognition of the State Board of Education, confirmed the affiliation with the Catholic University of America, and sought memberships in the National Catholic Education Association, the American Library Association, the National Association of Deans of Women, and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars.

For several years Mercy College catalogues were to be produced under the aegis and colors of the Blessed Virgin Mary—blue and white. Sister Patricia single-handedly put together the first catalogue. It is now a collectible of great intrinsic value for those who cherish the depiction of a well-balanced, well-rounded education based on Catholic principles. A small but costly error makes it even more a collectible, for it shows Sister Patricia's attention to detail. Usually unflappable in temperament and conduct, on this particular afternoon she arrived in the Dean's office obviously agitated. In typical fashion, she sat down, crossed her knees, and began to swing her foot.

"Would you believe it?" she said. "I've put the wrong form of address in the catalogue under the picture of Archbishop Mooney. It should be 'His Excellency,' not 'His Eminence.' We'll have to have all the catalogues reprinted."

"Couldn't we use them—at least this year?" suggested Sister Mary Justine—being of a more practical nature, and believing that "a faulty catalogue in the hand" a week before registration was worth an Archbishop's untimely promotion to Cardinal. But Sister Patricia had as many of the catalogues as she could tracked down, destroyed and ordered the reprint. "Let's start out right—just as we plan to continue," she said.

In view of the inflated tuition and fees imposed on the clientele today by institutions of higher learning everywhere, it seems justifiable to spend a moment here to appreciate the simplicity and rich-

ness of College offerings in 1941 and their preposterously low cost—at least at Mercy College. Tuition was \$75 a semester. Board and room ranged from \$350 a year to \$500, depending on the number of months involved. These rates remained unchanged for several years.

The design of academic disciplines was also simple. There were four divisions: **Religion and Philosophy**, comprising the Departments of Religion, Philosophy and Psychology; **Language and Literature**, consisting of the Departments of Latin, Greek, English, Journalism, Speech Arts, and the Department of Foreign Languages, including French and German; **Social Science**, containing the Departments of History, Government and Economics, Sociology, Teacher Education, Physical Education and Hygiene; and **Natural Science and Mathematics**, incorporating the Departments of Biology and Chemistry and the Department of Mathematics and Physics.

All this organization was the work of Sister Patricia; yet nothing identifies her as a neo-Thomistic scholar of the first rank more than her definition of the Purpose and Aims of the College as stated in the 1941 catalogue:

PURPOSE in general is the moral, intellectual and physical development of students according to the principles of a Catholic philosophy of education.

AIMS:

1. To provide a broad general education and also the requisite technical training for Sisters engaged in parochial (both grade and elementary) schools and in hospitals and to prepare the Sisters for advanced study.
2. To provide a liberal education for young women with sufficient specialization in particular fields to qualify those who wish to continue to Graduate school.
3. By its program in Nursing Education and Social Services to provide for young women who have chosen or desire to enter the profession of Nursing or Social Service, an education embracing such a combination of cultural, scientific, and professional courses as will enable them to assume positions of responsibility in a variety of fields offered today by the professions of

### Nursing Education and Social Service.

In order that its educational program may, in the words of Pope Pius X, affect "the whole aggregate of human life," Mercy College provides, in addition to its cultural and professional courses, theoretical instruction in moral and dogmatic truths. Through its extracurricular activities, it aims to assist the student in translating these instructions into the practice of integrated moral, religious and intellectual life.

By its comprehensive health program, the College offers facilities for the acquisition and practice of desirable health habits.

Thus, the program of Mercy College aims to effect the harmonious development of soul, mind and body.



## FOUNDRESS AND ORIENTATIONS: 1941 TO 1942

**A**lthough the College had no traditional opening activities, it carried out a series of mini-steps in the College experience of those responsible for getting everything “off to a good start,” as Sister Patricia would say.

An Orientation Program on September 9-10, 1941, was the first scheduled activity. It was graced by the presence of the Board of Trustees, including Mother Mary Bernardine Purcell, Mother General of the Institute and Honorary President of the Board, and 29 faculty members, of whom 14 were Sisters of Mercy, most serving in dual capacities or on leave of absence. These included Sister Mary Bridget O’Brien (Latin and Greek); Sister Mary Frederic Ryan (Latin and French); Sister Mary Gertrude McDevitt (Chemistry); Postulant Marie Fitch (Dietetics); Sister Mary Herbert Cannon (Biology and French); Sister Mary Immaculata Lamey, Dean of Nursing Education (Public Health); Sister Mary Inez Hanley (on leave for study); Sister Mary Justine Sabourin, Academic Dean (English and Journalism); Sister Mary Lidwina Reps (Education and Mathematics); Sister Mary Maurice Sheehy (on leave for study); Sister Mary Maura\* (History);

*\*Since family names were not used to identify religious faculty at that time, it is uncertain whether the history instructor was Sister Mary Maura Reilly or Sister Mary Maura Noll. Both qualified for the position. Neither appeared in subsequent rosters.*

Sister Mary Patricia Garvey, President (Philosophy and German); Sister Mary Redempta Forestall (Sociology); and Sister Mary Valentina Kennedy (Director of Clinical Practice and Nursing Ethics).

Also at the Orientation Program were the lay faculty. Mercy College was eminently successful in engaging the services of its lay faculty—the nucleus of which was retained from the former Mercy College of Nursing on East Grand Boulevard: Myrtle Corcoran (Bacteriology); Margaret Duffy (Anatomy); Florence Hennessey (Materia Medica); Mary E. Kelly (Ethics); Loyola Lane (Nursing Arts); Mary Herringhaus (Bacteriology) and Betty Seitz (Nursing Arts). Most of these ladies were professional women of distinction both in Detroit and in the state of Michigan. They were accomplished teachers in their respective fields and exerted a profound influence, not only on the careers of their students, but also on their personal lives.

"You are all the sweet things rolled into one," was said of Mary Kelly, a splendid teacher, President of the National Council of Catholic Nurses in the United States, and an active or supportive member of some 14 professional organizations. Of Loyola Lane, former students reminisced: "We will miss her steady hand and good common sense, her endless patience and her amazing ability to read our recalcitrant minds." They lovingly referred to Florence Hennessey as "Mater Medica," to Mary Herringhaus as "Our Miss Michigan," and to Margaret Duffy as the newest and youngest "Pride of the Irish Mafia." There is no question that alumnae and current students loved and admired their teachers, both lay and religious. As for their other professors, both diocesan and religious—Franciscan, Jesuit, Passionist, and Salvatorian—the entire campus held them in high esteem, admiring their generosity in terms of time and effort, their spiritual judgment and leadership, and their preparedness in their teaching field.

Sister Mary Justine opened the Orientation Program by presenting the students to the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty. Of the 220 students present, 114 were registered on campus and 106 in the extension class on East Grand Boulevard. Campus enrollees (including the novices and postulants of the Sisters of Mercy) represented six states: West Virginia, New York, Iowa, South Dakota, Indiana and Michigan.

Sister Patricia gave the keynote address, identifying the students

as "pacemakers for all future classes." The College Chaplain, the Reverend Leo M. Weiland, CSV; Personnel Director Mary Kelly; and Librarian Eileen Patterson also spoke.

Activities closed with a delectable tea and social hour on the afternoon of September 10, and provided another opportunity for the students and their parents to meet the faculty and administration.

Plans were already in progress for an imposing formal dedication on Wednesday, September 24, the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. Time limitations forced its cancellation on this date, however, and the official opening Mass was postponed until a later date.

On a more informal and musical note, "getting-to-know-you" activities were proceeding at the Residence Hall. Students were making the most of their final vacation days before classes began September 15. Unfortunately a misunderstanding involving the resident students arose, which might be excused today as a "bureaucratic snafu." At the first meeting of the House Council, students voted to have a dress-up, sit-down dinner once a week, but it seemed that conflicting schedules left only one night when everyone was free.

Accordingly, the Business Manager, Sister Mercy, who supervised the dining room service, was invited to meet with Irene Allshouse, Sister Justine and the young ladies to finalize their plans.

"Wednesday is a good night," confirmed Sister Mercy. "So beginning this coming week—the first week of classes—we will plan for a more-or-less formal dinner each Wednesday. We are fortunate," she added, "to have some day students applying for part-time work in the cafeteria. We'll have everything ready."

Apparently Sister Mercy had forgotten that Wednesday of the following week was September 24, the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy.

Irene Allshouse and Sister Justine did not forget, and believing this to give an additional luster to the day, encouraged the 36 young ladies to dress in their best bib and tucker for the occasion. Thus the Residence Hall and College kitchen started on highly divergent paths to prepare for September 24.

The Feast of Our Lady of Mercy began as planned with a special Mass and breakfast for all who attended. It was clear from the sounds and smells that emanated from the kitchen that Sister Mercy had hired, not only friends of the cook and pastry chef, but "friends of their friends" to lend a helping hand. Another tradition began at the noon meal that day when all faculty and both day and resident students were invited to be guests of the Sisters of Mercy.

After three o'clock the kitchen rested, but the residents were still going full tilt ahead. At about four o'clock, Sister Justine, assisted by one of the secretaries, placed four white mats on each table with a lighted wired-glass candle surrounded by greens in the center. On each place mat she laid a fragrant corsage of tiny rosebuds, fern and baby breath. Then, opening the doors into the corridor, she adjusted the ceiling light to a soft amber glow and arranged records on a turntable. All was ready for the first sit-down dinner.

Becoming increasingly aware of the quiet and inactivity in the cafeteria kitchen, she decided to seek out Sister Mercy in the main kitchen.

"Sister Mercy? She's gone for the day," said one of the two ladies working at the counter.

"Gone!" I echoed in consternation. "And the residents' dinner tonight?"

"Now don't you worry your little head about that. We have a wonderful supper for you all—fresh vegetables from Sister Mercy's garden: tomatoes, lettuce, pan-fried potatoes, watermelon, and some lovely fresh home-made bread."

In planning the feast-day celebration, Sister Mercy had apparently forgotten about the Wednesday sit-down dinner—and rightly so. It was her special, personal once-a-year feast day; it was the patronal feast of the Institute; it was a day dear to the heart of all Sisters of Mercy for nearly 100 years.

Sister Justine's dilemma was how to head off the dress parade. Then it occurred to her: "Let them come. Let them adjust. This will be an experience that should add several days to their maturity and several years to mine."

The aftermath? Most enjoyed a good laugh; some mentioned that they had already consumed enough goodies for one day; others suggested they return to the Residence Hall, change into casual clothes and eat their supper "al fresco."

Another aftermath: the Dean's dilemma. Where on this 40-acre campus was Sister Mercy's garden?

That there was a garden soon became evident. Sister Mercy was a strong believer in adages, such as, "You must earn your keep by the sweat of your brow" and "Waste not, want not." She not only shared her guruship with her dining clientele, but she also compelled their cooperation, promising dire consequences if they faltered along the way.

Tucked behind a slender pole fence in the far northeast corner of the campus (with Fred Burke's full knowledge and complicity) was a 40' x 40' plot of luscious sun-drenched tomatoes, rows of succulent green and pink lettuce plants, and bushels of Michigan potatoes.

Sister Mercy envisioned herself well set for the opening of the College. She had her potatoes, her tomatoes, and her lettuce in abundance. What more could one ask?



*The interior of a typical room in the dormitories.*

The resident students remembered it differently, however. After a sturdy traditional breakfast and a popular fast-food lunch, one night it was potatoes, tomatoes and lettuce; on the second night, tomatoes, lettuce and potatoes; on a third night, lettuce, potatoes and tomatoes, "ad infinitum" as long as the supply lasted. There was some variety in the preparation of the potatoes. They came boiled, baked, French-fried, scalloped, pan-fried. Each night some hors d'oeuvre dressed up the plate: an olive, speared through its tasty stuffing to a cube of cheese; an orange slice skewered into a flower with a prune at its center; a tiny Vienna sausage tucked into the hole of a fresh

pineapple slice. The dinner menu was topped with crusty French bread and a savory dessert. The residents agreed that it was all nice to look at, but somewhat boring in taste—and not at all like "Mom's."

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on one's taste, the garden was not self-perpetuating and disappeared with the first frost. Even Fred would not reveal where Sister Mercy's garden went after 1941. On October 20, the official diarist of the student newspaper, *Outer Echoes*, wrote: "Blue Monday and come another week. I had six classes today (a Nursing student) and fried potatoes for supper. Pictures were taken around the school. I was shot twice in the parlor."

Finally, after considerable communication by letter and telephone, all arrangements were coordinated and on Sunday, November 2, 1941, the Most Reverend Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, celebrated the formal opening Mass in the College chapel. Fifteen diocesan priests were present: John A. Donovan; John J. McCabe; Francis F. Van Antwerp; William L. Hermes; Joseph M. Mc Isaac; Thomas F. Tulley; Thomas Currier; Carroll F. Deady; R. Francis Paquette; F.J. Borck; J.J. McMahon, S.J.; J.A. Otte, C.P.; Alquin Hennin, O.S.B.; and Leo M. Weiland, C.S.V. The Very Reverend Richard J. French, Provincial of the Viatorian Fathers, Chicago, addressed those assembled. Mother Mary Bernardine Purcell, Mother General of the Sisters of Mercy, and Mother Mary Carmelita Hartman, former Mother General, came from Bethesda, Md., for the occasion.

After Mass, the Archbishop led a processional to bless and dedicate the buildings and grounds. This impressive affair was followed by a dinner and later by an open house for the public.

Scarcely had classes begun when the whole world was stunned by the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7, 1941. Immediately, Civil Defense agencies surged into action. Air raid drills, the storing and maintaining of first-aid supplies, the rationing of food and the constant notifications of the lost, the missing and the dead made many lives a nightmare far removed from the pleasant relaxed life of the past.

Four classes in Home Nursing were organized with a total enrollment of 150 adults, and a class in First Aid was offered for teachers in the Detroit secondary schools. All classes were taught by faculty member Margaret Duffy. Almost 200 took advantage of these offerings and earned appropriate certificates. Both Monsignor Deady, Superintendent of Archdiocesan Catholic Schools, and Governor Van Wagoner acknowledged the service in letters expressing grati-

tude. Even though it was a tense time in their young lives, the students gleefully cherished the picture of their House Mother, Irene Allshouse, with a hard hat on her venerable head, rounding up her "chicks."

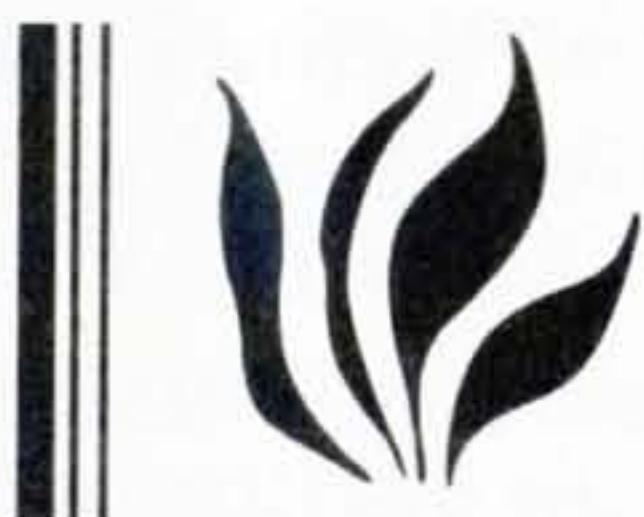
Despite the war constraints on both body and spirit, the College launched a number of exciting programs in its first year, including "The Art of Living" in which students experienced formal tea hostessing; first nighters at opera, concerts and theater; landmark tours; and exotic cuisine sampling. The Mercian Players staffed and presented "Hamlet." Another group planned and distributed the College newspaper, *Outer Echoes*, in October 1941. Also initiated at this time was the "Artists Series," which featured local, national and international singers, speakers and actors.

There was no pomp and circumstance, no fanfare at graduation in June 1942. There was only one full-time senior. She received her degree privately July 30 after finishing her requirements in Sociology. Trusting absolutely in the word of the state that it had conferred power on Mercy College to grant degrees, Mother Carmelita, some time in 1940, had promised this young lady the opportunity to earn her Bachelor of Science degree at the College by doing tutorial study with Sister Mary Redempta Forestall. With the tacit complicity of Archbishop Mooney, Mother Carmelita was able to fulfill her promise.

Since one of the primary aims of establishing Mercy College was the education of the Sisters of Mercy, a six-week summer school was inaugurated in 1942. There were 98 Sisters registered in Liberal Arts and Sciences, in addition to 90 Nursing Diploma students.

On July 5, 1942, five members of the Michigan State Board of Education visited the College and expressed approval of its Teacher Education program and confirmed its power to recommend applications for State Limited Certificates and Renewals for members of the Sisters of Mercy.

As early as July 28, 1942, the Board of Trustees arranged for a loan to erect a nurses' dormitory for College students at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital, Detroit.



## WAR TOUCHES THE MERCians: 1942 TO 1943

**A**s the war grew in scope and violence in 1942, participation in Civil Defense activities increased in proportion to the voluntary curtailment of social activities by both faculty and students.

All faculty members attended a weekly class in Air Raid Wardenship conducted by the Reverend Bartholomew Orr of Dun Scotus. Home Nursing courses were taught throughout the year by the nursing faculty: Mary Kelly, Margaret Duffy, and Mary Hackett, with 88 women in attendance. Sister Mary Gertrude McDevitt, Chemistry Department, attended the Gas Officers' Institute at the Horace Rackham Building in Detroit from August 18 to September 3 to become certified as a Gas Identification Officer. Sister Mary Olivia Rochford and Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald gave two courses in Health Education and Nutrition to 114 girl scouts.

Mercy students were also involved, contributing nearly \$3,000 in the Bond Drive. On several occasions students also served as hostesses for USO social activities, and volunteered at food-stamp booths throughout the city.

Death, too, with its inevitable finality, made its presence felt. On October 11, 1942, Marian O'Hare, a resident student, was informed that her fiancé had been killed in action. At such times, pure,

unadorned grief knit the students together as nothing else could.

The College curriculum was changing, too. Much to the appreciation of the students and their parents, significant improvements were made as indicated in the College catalogue. Programs were more clearly defined and presented in greater detail with more practical information. Rather than specifying divisional and departmental areas, eight-semester curricula were described for students aspiring toward a baccalaureate degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences; for Arts in Elementary Education; for Arts and Sciences in Secondary Education; and for the State Limited Teacher's Certificate. Similar changes were also made in curricula leading to the Bachelor of Science in Foods and Nutrition, Medical Laboratory Technology, Medical Record Library Science, Radiological Technology, Nursing, Nursing Education, and for diplomas in Nursing and in Anesthesiology.

During this time, membership on the Board of Trustees was unchanged, as was the administration, except for the replacement of Librarian Eileen Patterson by Sister Mary Georgia Brown.

Faculty grew to 35, among whom were several Sisters of Mercy: Sister Mary Callista Young (English); Novice Sister Mary Lenore Fitch (Nutrition); Sister Mary Leona Archambeau (Mathematics and Chemistry); Sister Mary Lucille Middleton, Community Supervisor of Schools (Education); Sister Mary Olivia Rochford, Assistant Mistress of Novices (Home Economics); and Sister Mary Pauline Donahue (Medical Record Library Science).

The year 1942-43 was also a time of searching for institutional identity. With the financial support of the Board of Trustees, members of the administration, faculty and students were able to attend meetings of several professional organizations. It was hoped that the appearance of the name Mercy College on various professional rosters would indicate the College's interest and support in all areas relating to its curricular offerings.

In November, the Marquette University Press issued the translation of a treatise entitled "St. Augustine against the Academicians," prepared by Sister Patricia Garvey. This discourse, in which Augustine refutes skepticism, is one of his most important early philosophical works. Sister Patricia's contribution to this project—relating to medieval writers—met with immediate favorable response in the academic world.

More recognitions came. On November 7, 1942, the College was

approved as a two-year school for Medical Record Librarians and in May 1943, it was approved as a two-year school for Clinical Laboratory Technicians. To free the Home Economics apartment where the Chaplains had been living since 1941, a one-story, two-bedroom bungalow was built in the nook of the chapel and administration building. At the same time plans were made for a caretaker's residence facing Curtis Street.

Student enrollment increased by eight percent to 225. Several student organizations were ratified: the Alexandrian Club (Philosophy); the Mendelian Club (Biology); the Mercian Players and Verse-Speaking Choir (Speech); and the Journalism Club (*Outer Echoes*).

The Mercian Players, under the phenomenal talent of Sister Mary Marguerite Butler, chose "Smilin' Through" of World War I vintage as the apperceptive offering for its fall debut. This was followed by the traditional Christmas Pageant in December, and by the sprightly and jaunty operetta, "Vagabond King," in May. It was to Sister Marguerite's advantage that critics often likened her productions to those staged on Broadway, and it was definitely to the advantage of the students, who not only played the roles, but also built the scenery from scratch, researched and made the costumes, choreographed and performed the dances, sang the music, sold the tickets, advertised the production and ushered at the theater.

In the Nursing Department, both faculty and students participated in the activities of the first Biennial Convention of the National Council of Catholic Nurses and acted as hostesses at the annual meeting of the Detroit Catholic Federation of Doctors.

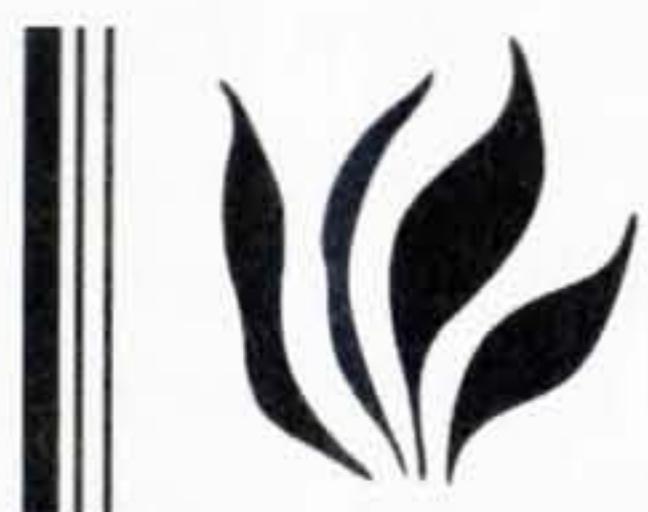
Speakers at the College in 1942-43 offered a delightfully entertaining diversity of subjects which helped considerably in keeping morale high: Sister Mary Edwardine O'Connor discussed poetry and read selections from her "just-off-the-press" book, *Rising Wind*; Father John Quinn, S.J., Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Detroit, offered a kaleidoscopic view of the history of music interspersed with selections from Bach to Berlin; Jean Cosmos of the J. L. Hudson Fashion Bureau demonstrated how the war was affecting the college girls' wardrobe; Dr. Clare Q. Riedl of the Tower Press, Milwaukee, discussed Berta Hummel and her art, as well as the sudden and sweeping influence of Verse Speaking throughout the country; Theodore Maynard, noted English poet and lecturer, introduced the Mercians to "The Chesterton I Know."

Although only in its second year, Mercy College, through its accel-

erated program, was able to confer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree on four lay transfer students and on three Adrian Dominicans, and the Bachelor of Science on Sister Mary Rachel Nadeau.

The ceremony was held Thursday, August 26, 1943, in the ballroom of the Book Cadillac Hotel in downtown Detroit, with the Most Reverend Stephen S. Woznicki, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, presiding. The Very Reverend Henry Donnelly, Rector of Sacred Heart Seminary, delivered a moving discourse which had both spiritual and patriotic implications.

Also included in the ceremony was a report to the American Red Cross relating to the Student Reserve Enrollment of former nursing graduates.



## ACCREDITATION CONCERNS: 1943 TO 1944

**A**lthough the fall of 1943 began with Sister Mary Patricia Garvey continuing as President of the College and Sister Mary Immaculata Lamey as Dean of Nursing Education, there were some changes in the College administration: Sister Mary Justine Sabourin, Academic Dean, also took over the responsibility of Personnel Director; Sister Mary Lidwina Reps was named Registrar and Director of Teacher Education; and Sister Marietta Hogan was appointed Business Manager.

Although student enrollment increased only slightly, the 1943 resident freshman class took on a decidedly international flavor with students from Paris, France; San Salvador, El Salvador; Cabedeb, Brazil; and the Philippines. Added to the faculty were three new members, including John P. O'Brien, CSV, who joined the Biology Department and was affectionately known as the "Bug Club" organizer.

A number of outstanding campus events marked the 1943-44 academic year: the acceptance of Mercy College student membership in the National Federation of Catholic College Students; the formal organization of a Student Council, whose initial activities included the election of officers and the planning of the First Annual Alumnae Reunion; the Mercian Players' production of "Pride and Prejudice" in

November; the Christmas Pageant in December; and "Sweethearts" in May. Also, on December 12, in observance of the 112th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Mary of the Angels (Chicago) discussed her book on the life of our foundress, Catherine McAuley, *One Life in Christ*. In May, the College began the traditional observance of Mercy May Day to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Meanwhile, activities continued in support of the war effort, as did observance of personal austerities relating to both social and campus events. At the same time, with prodigious spring rains that seemed to go on and on, there were numerous stories—some grim, some amusing, some fretful—about the "mud in our lives."

Campus visitors that year included Dr. George B. Carothers and Dr. Frank O. Copley from the University of Michigan School of Education, and Dr. Roy J. Defferari from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. On a lighter note, Mercy College welcomed Alice May of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, who visited Detroit to recruit student volunteers; Sister Madeleva, C.S.C., Dean of Catholic poetry; Malcolm Bingay, leading editorial writer and columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*; and Emily Kimbrough, coauthor, with Cornelia F. Skinner, of *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*.

In early December 1943, the most Reverend Stephen S. Woznicki, with the approval of the College President, made his canonical visitation to the Sisters of Mercy faculty. Sister Mary Justine seized the opportunity to discuss with him the restrictions placed on the College regarding the granting of degrees. At his request, she followed up their conversation with a letter addressed to Bishop Woznicki, dated December 9, 1943:

Until we can build up a stabilized four-year student group, it will be difficult, if at all possible, to meet North Central accrediting. Our Sisters, with the exception of the novitiate, the members of which are not permitted to take a full program, are available for the student roster only during the summer sessions. A constantly growing number of national agencies of a technical nature are resting their judgment of an institution's standing on its regional accrediting. For example, the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing admits to membership only regionally accredited institutions. Our efforts toward

North Central recognition, therefore, will be fruitless until we have an adequate number of students in a four-year general program earning a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree.

We would not need many registrants to help lay this foundation. Even one hundred liberal arts students would be a small proportion to the numbers now attending non-Catholic institutions in this area, and at the same time it would give us the life blood we need to develop our professional fields which are now restricted in their recognition by the limitations placed on our liberal arts registration.

On January 24, 1944, Bishop Woznicki responded that he would do all he could in reviewing the matter with the Archbishop. In March, a letter from Monsignor Deady indicated that Archbishop Mooney had passed on to him the letter Sister Justine had sent to Bishop Woznicki. He indicated that he was preparing a memo to the Archbishop in which he was reviewing the factors involved in the request. On May 25, Monsignor Deady wrote:

The Archbishop directs me to inform you that it is his judgment that present circumstances do not permit any departure from the understanding that was conveyed to him in the letter from Mother Carmelita under date of August 17, 1941, which states that ". . . we are not taking any lay students except those that are interested along professional lines."

Behind the scenes, Mother Carmelita decided to take matters into her own hands. With the expense incurred by the Board of Trustees, she invited two representatives from the North Central Association's regional office to make an unofficial visit to Mercy College to focus on the areas that needed improvement, so that eventually the College might meet accrediting standards. Accordingly, Dr. John Dale Russell and the Reverend Paul J. Barth paid a visit to the campus during the second week of March. On April 12, Father Barth mailed to Mother Carmelita a detailed report of "needed improvements." On April 17, Mother Carmelita wrote to Father Barth to thank him for the report and to say with typical honesty:

Until we have our program in working order, and since the North Central is not visiting colleges for accreditation

until after the war, I think it very unwise to put on file in any office outside of the office at Mercy College the report you sent. We feel it is an honest one, but not a creditable one as far as we are concerned. So I am asking the favor of keeping our family problems to ourselves.

No one on campus could have failed to notice Mother Carmelita escorting the North Central representatives around the buildings and grounds—her large motherly figure gently overwhelming, her dark brown eyes snapping with challenge as she astutely and articulately assessed potentials and impediments, emphasizing her words as was her habit, with her foreshortened right index finger cradled protectively in her right thumb. For three days Mother Carmelita, Dr. Russell and Father Barth were everywhere, anywhere, at every time, at any time. Never one to purposely diminish the role of the College in this undertaking, Mother Carmelita saw to it that a member of the administration or the faculty accompanied the group on these rounds.

The whole College community instinctively gave Mother Carmelita credit for resolutely moving the institution toward accreditation. In appreciation, the staff of *Outer Echoes*, for the second time in three years, complimented Mother Carmelita on her "fortitude, keen insight and persevering efforts." They also wrote: "Here our spiritual, scholastic, social and physical needs are indeed met. . . . Here is our second home."

To accommodate the longer program of Nursing Diploma students, the 1944 graduation took place August 30 in the Book Cadillac Hotel. The Most Reverend Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, conferred the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing on two students: Sister Mary Lucia, O.S.F., of Sylvania, Ohio; and Virginia Kurrle Pety of Dearborn, Michigan. He conferred the Diploma of Nursing on 39 students from Detroit's Mount Carmel Unit and 16 from the Jackson unit. Six young ladies from the Mount Carmel Unit, who had already completed three years on campus, chose to continue for two more years of clinical work toward a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing: Jeanne Dettling, Marie Fitzgerald, Ruth Romer, Sue Scarlett, Mary Schiros and Mary Walker. This program was known as the five-year course, one of the many diversified patterns in the field. As Sister Immaculata, Dean of Nursing Education, frequently said, "We're in a state of flux, and I see no end to it."

The Reverend W.J. Miller, S.J., President of the University of Detroit, gave the commencement address.



## CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE AND DIRECTION: 1944 TO 1945

In September 1944, the College indicated its authority to grant Liberal Arts and Science Degrees by including a section on History in its 1944-45 catalogue. At the same time, it unfolded its aims in greater detail. With great joy and satisfaction it proclaimed its heritage from Catherine McAuley: "Mercy College," it heralded, "is motivated by her ideals, her social conscience and her consequent practices. In general, these ideals of education, nursing and social service are designed to emanate from a firm supernatural faith in God and a fervent charity toward mankind."

Accordingly, Mercy College rephrased its specific aims:

1. To provide a broad, general education as a cultural basis for the development of the individual and as a preparation for professional and technical training in such fields as teaching, nursing, social work, etc.
2. To provide professional courses for pre-service and in-service teachers.
3. To provide a) basic professional courses for nurses, and b) advanced professional courses for those wishing to prepare for executive and teaching positions in hospitals and schools of nursing.
4. To provide professional and technical courses for laboratory technologists, X-ray technologists, medical record librarians and

anesthetists.

5. To provide technical and artistic training for those interested in speech, theater arts and radio broadcasting.

Indicative of a small College still in the throes of organization, the Board of Trustees made further changes: Sister Mary Lucille Middleton was named Dean of Arts and Sciences; Sister Mary Justine Sabourin, Dean of Women; and Sister Mary Carmela Blust, Business Manager. To avoid any misunderstanding with the Archbishop, it was later decided to delete reference to a Speech Arts program, and in its place include a new program entitled "Foundations in Social Service."

Taking advantage of the Federal Government's offer to assist in the expansion of buildings to promote science, Mother Carmelita applied for and received funds to erect a three-story classroom and laboratory building with an adjacent auditorium for lectures, etc. Instead of moving the College into this new facility upon its completion in 1945, however, Mother Carmelita, with the concurrence of the Archbishop and the Federal Government, announced the open-



An early view of the Mercy College campus shows the Provincial House, Marian Hall, Bethesda Hall and McAuley Auditorium, as well as the faculty houses. The lake, grotto and Rose Arbor are visible in the northwest part of the campus.

ing of a new all-girls' high school as a feeder to the College and to the Sisters of Mercy novitiate. The new lecture hall, intended to serve both Our Lady of Mercy High School and the College, was named McAuley Auditorium.

Also in 1944, Mercy College applied to the Department of Public Instruction of the state of Michigan for approval to provide education for the veterans of World War II as stipulated in the G.I. Bill of Rights. Soon the College was confirmed to offer to the veterans Bachelor of Science degrees in specialized fields: Medical Technology, Medical Record Library Science, Anesthesiology, Radiology, and Speech and Drama.

As the war continued, the student population grew. To ease over-crowding at the Residence Hall on campus, the Board of Trustees arranged to have the Basic Professional Registrants housed in the nurses' dormitory on the grounds of Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital. Shuttle transportation was provided for the students—whence the origin of the popular expressions “us-on-the-bus” and the “bus-rush.”

The College reached the zenith of its apostolic endeavors on September 8, 1944, when three outstanding Mercians entered the Sisters of Mercy Novitiate: Julie Burns of Detroit, Ruth Elaine Griffore of Saginaw, and Mary Leavitt of Dearborn. At her reception, Julie, who celebrated her Golden Jubilee a few years ago, was given the name Michaeleen. Ruth Elaine and Mary went on to become loving mothers and devoted alumnae. With equal scholastic pride, the College published its first Dean's List and announced its first “All-A” honor student, Alice Skinner, from Flint, Michigan. Also in 1944, senior Jane Behen received a two-year scholarship to attend the National Catholic School of Social Service at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

To expedite the recording of each student's educational, physical, emotional and social progress during her years at Mercy, Sister Justine developed a cumulative guidance folder, a form that was highly praised by Alice Lloyd of the University of Michigan and by the National Association of Deans of Women. A few years later, Sister Mary Nolasco McPhillips successfully used the folder as the basis for her master's degree at St. Louis University.

The faculty was also greatly enriched in September 1944, when Sister Mary Lucille Middleton (Education) and Sister Mary Inez Hanley (English) joined the Sister faculty. Although still a novice, Sister Marie Fitch, later known as Sister Mary Lenore, continued to

teach Nutrition. Father Arthur Reckinger, former Chaplain to the 78th Lightning Division of the United States Army, was appointed by the Archbishop to the dual roles of teacher and Chaplain. This marked the beginning of a lifelong friendship between this most admired and loved Chaplain and the College. In May 1945, Father Reckinger received the unusual distinction of being elected to the National Chaplain's Office of the United Nations Legion—World War II, with the responsibility and power to set policies and make appointments.

The Mercian Players launched their fourth year with a highly stylized version of Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," followed by the traditional "Christmas Hour" in December, and in May, the perennially popular Victor Herbert operetta "Naughty Marietta."

Speakers that year included Dorothy Day, Eddie Doherty and his Baroness DeHueck; Father Remi Bellperche, S.J.; and Dr. C.J. Nemzek of the University of Detroit.

On October 19, the Student Council embarked on an entirely different activity. They converted the faculty dining room into their own coffee shop.

"For a long time," remarked Jane Behen, president, "we've had our eye on this quaint little blue and pink room. Now it's ours and we're ready to advertise our wares: good hot coffee, good cold colas, donuts, scones (both Irish and English), guaranteed weather-proof potato chips and modest prices." The Student Council officers wanted to be sure that they would never be "financially strapped" for their charitable enterprises.

Other popular campus activities that year included sports, of which the most popular were fencing and ice skating.

Knowing how indispensable North Central accreditation was to graduates pursuing a higher degree, on March 22, 1945, Sister Patricia and Sister Justine met with the President and Dean of the University of Detroit: the Reverend Albert H. Poetker, S.J.; and the Reverend Allen Farrell, S.J.; respectively, to request affiliation. This would imply that the University of Detroit would confer all degrees on Mercy College students, with the name "Mercy College" appearing below "University of Detroit" only on those degrees whose major requirements were met at Mercy College.

The tentative agreement between the two institutions was submitted to Archbishop Mooney for final approval on March 27, 1945. On April 16, he gave his written endorsement with the proviso that it

concern only

. . . the professional school for those who are preparing to engage in nursing or allied occupations and as a training center for members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, but does not envisage its development as a general college of liberal arts for lay students.

Never at a loss for words, Sister Patricia could not forego a wry comment: "The Archbishop has cut us off at the pass once more." After several days of serious debate, and reflecting the final point of view of the Board of Trustees, Sister Patricia wrote to Father Poetker as follows:

After careful consideration of the Articles of indenture of Agreement of Affiliation between the University of Detroit and Mercy College submitted to the Administrative Council of the College at a meeting on Tuesday, April 24, it was the unanimous decision of the group that the terms would not be satisfactory to Mercy College. It was considered inadvisable to enter into any such agreement at this time.

Sister Justine commented later that neither of the University of Detroit officials had been very encouraging from the outset.

Just as the bombing of Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki abruptly ended the conflict. On May 8, 1945, President Truman's voice came over the air waves announcing V-E Day. On campus, Rosemary Dolan, an *Outer Echoes* staffer, astutely wrote, "V-E Day is not a day of celebration, but a day of prayer and thanksgiving."

In 1945, degrees were conferred on 12 seniors, four of whom were the first Sisters of Mercy to receive Liberal Arts degrees:

Sisters Mary Laurentina Taffee, Lucy McDonald, Yolanda Laskowska, and Judith Rapin. Seven diplomas were granted in Anesthesiology and 124 diplomas in Nursing.

The Most Reverend Stephen Woznicki conferred the degrees and diplomas; the commencement address was given by the Very Reverend G. Warren Peek, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The ceremonies took place at the Horace H. Rackham Educational Memorial Building in Detroit.



## GROWTH IN FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: 1945 TO 1946

In 1945, membership on the Board of Trustees was altered by the election of a new Mother General of the Institute, Mother Mary Bernardine Purcell, who was named Honorary President of the Board, and by the inclusion of a new Provincial Councilor, Sister Mary Lucille Middleton, who replaced Sister Mary Immaculata Lamey.

Sister Mary Aloysia Rochford replaced Sister Justine as Academic Dean of the College. Sister Mary Aloysia was hospital-oriented and immediately recognized the benefits of uniting Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital personnel with the College faculty.

Accordingly, Sister Mary Xavier Shields, Administrator at Mount Carmel, was appointed Coordinator of Laboratory Departments. Under her direction were Dr. Lawrence Gardner, Director of Medical Technology; Sister Mary Pauline Theisen, Director of Medical Record Library Science; Dr. Joseph Grace, Director of Radiological Technology, and Sister Helen Marie Hughes, Director of Anesthesiology.

Sister Mary Nolasco McPhillips was appointed Dean of Women, and Sister Mary Valentina Kennedy assumed Sister Immaculata's position as Director of Basic Professional Nursing.

Several of the Sister faculty who left the College that summer

seemed to be on a short leave of absence, since a few years later they returned to the campus. In the interim, Sister Mary Lucille took over the responsibilities of the Community Supervisor of Education, a role she had previously held; Sister Mary Marguerite Butler was named principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School, and Sister Justine Sabourin became principal of St. Jean Elementary and Secondary School in Muskegon, Michigan. The year had hardly begun when one of the new faculty members, Sister Mary Mercy Miller, died suddenly. Sister Mercy had been an excellent science teacher. During her first two months at the College, she had proven herself especially helpful in planning Lay Apostolate activities and programs for the National Federation of Catholic College Students (NFCCS). Although many of the faculty and students scarcely knew her, her death was mourned by all.

As far as records show, 1945-46 was the only year that faculty and students had no College catalogue. Instead, a 16-page Bulletin was published, which contained only essential data.

When they returned to campus in the fall of 1945, both faculty and students were entranced with the newly decorated chapel in tones of coral, ivory and turquoise, its statues in natural marble, its walls done in "cafe au lait," its stalls and pews of driftwood, its high Gothic windows emitting the translucent glimmer of real gems—all interlaced with gold-leaf scroll (see photo, p.44).

Students and faculty were also delighted with the new 800-seat auditorium, which housed the latest facilities for effective productions. Other added features were a third unit for the McAuley Residence; a bungalow for Father Burroughs, Chaplain of Our Lady of Mercy High School; the extension of the main kitchen to provide a bakery; and the renovation of the second story of the garage to increase living accommodations for maintenance workers. One of the first and most enduring tenants was Louis Riuko, who had been among the Japanese citizens confined to a reservation during World War II, and who did custodial work at the College. Sister Mary Leona Archambeau, one of Mercy's finest mathematics and physics professors, taught him English, and also taught him about the all-consuming love of God for his creatures. Louis Riuko eventually became Catholic, and it was not unusual to find him praying quietly in the chapel gallery when his day's work was done.

Faculty meetings during the year were chiefly devoted to a study of the recommendations of the North Central Association for



The interior of the Mercy College chapel, located in what was originally the Provincial House and is today the Administration Building, has retained much of its decor and all of its reverent solitude for nearly 60 years.

Institutions of Higher Learning, and to a revision of the College faculty organization plan.

Faculty members were becoming actively engaged as speakers or guests at meetings of learned societies in which they were members. Sister Mary Pauline Theisen drew a large group of interested doctors at a meeting of the American College of Surgeons at the Hotel Statler on March 26 when she led a lively discussion on medical records. Sister Mary Ellen Bossong planned and directed the production of a filmstrip entitled "The Administration of Drugs by Injection." The filmstrip and its accompanying manual continue to be published and distributed by the Society for Visual Education, Chicago.

As if making up for the war-time repressions, student activities flourished. For the first time, Foundation Day of the Sisters of Mercy, December 12, was celebrated by a special convocation at which John M. Haffert spoke movingly of "Mary in Her Scapular Promise." On

January 3, the College hosted the National Catholic Music Association. The organization's president, Dr. Harry Seitz, presided over plans for a national convention in Detroit in the early spring. On April 28, students hosted the semi-annual meeting of the Catholic Library Association. Marie Bush, president of the Choral Club, chose May 26 to host an afternoon tea for parents and friends, featuring soprano Helen Baker, choral director and daughter of the internationally known music educator, Daniel Prothero.

Under the direction of Louise C. Horton, the Mercian Players continued their tradition of presenting a "Christmas Hour" in late December. Called "The York Nativity," this year's offering was John F. Baird's modernization of the York Miracle Cycle. Special scenic and lighting effects as well as music by the Choral Club heightened the beauty of the production and made it striking in its simplicity. In May, Louise Horton directed the Mercian Players in their presentation of Richard Sheridan's 18th-century comedy of errors, "The Rivals." At about this time "The Cue Sheet" made its appearance. Written and published by the Mercian Players, it depicted Catholic criteria for current stage and screen showings.

Five students were listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*. An Alumnae Association was formed for degree students and was recognized by the international Federation of Catholic Alumnae.

On March 5, Detroit welcomed home from Rome his Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney after his elevation to the cardinalate. Leaders of major faculty and student organizations represented the College at week-long civic and religious celebrations and voiced their appreciation of the singular honor bestowed by His Holiness Pius XII on the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Commencement exercises took place on the College campus on June 6, 1946. Faculty and students in academic dress marched from the Great Hall through the rose arbor, past the ornamental lake and belvedere, past the grotto dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, to the new McAuley Auditorium where His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney conferred degrees on 28 students. Six graduates received diplomas in Anesthesiology.

The Very Reverend Arthur Breen of Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, addressed the graduates and their guests.



## LAY STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES: 1946 TO 1947

**A**s in the past, the vote of the Sisters of Mercy determined membership on the Board of Trustees and the College's Administration. In the fall of 1946, Mother Mary Raymund O'Leary became Board President; Sister Mary Annette Cretzmeyer, Board Secretary; and Dr. Louis J. Gariepy, Medical Advisor to the College.

For the first time the College catalogue incorporated a description of the physical facilities, highlighting the growth of its library from zero to 12,000 volumes and 200 periodicals; of its 800-seat auditorium and lecture hall and its gymnasium. The College had a long way to go, but had developed a solid foundation.

The purpose of the College was extended in 1946 to focus on "social development." Aim #1 was recast: "To provide a broad general education as a cultural foundation for enriching the life of the student, and to enable her to contribute to the intellectual and social life of the community in which she lives."

Not to be deterred in their five-year struggle to open the doors of the College to all students, on August 12, 1946, Mother Raymund, Mother Carmelita and Sister Patricia wrote again to Cardinal Mooney, congratulating him on the honor conferred on him and requesting once more that he

. . . consider the removal of the restrictions placed on Mercy College by not allowing the College to accept lay students who are interested in the regular Liberal Arts courses. There are 14 high schools in our Province under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy, and each year we receive applications from graduates of these schools who desire to attend a Catholic college. We wish to assure you that we will abide by your decision.

This letter was supplemented by the unhesitatingly strong support of the Mother General of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy from Bethesda, Maryland, and by the personal intervention of the Chaplain of the College, Father Reckinger. It is generally believed that the latter was highly persuasive on this occasion. But Sister students at the College at the time allege that Sister Patricia, who had great devotion to the Stations of the Cross, spent the intervening three days making the stations non-stop. If so, her prayers were answered.

Refusing to "look a gift horse in the mouth," as Sister Patricia put it, she immediately sent out a news release:

The President of Mercy College announces the expansion of its academic program beginning with the fall session of 1946.

The College now offers to young ladies curricula leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and to the degree of Bachelor of Science. Majors are offered in the following fields: English, history, Latin and sociology. Minors are offered in the subjects listed above and also in speech, French, physical education and philosophy.

To put a crowning touch on this colossal endeavor, Cardinal Mooney wrote on August 27, 1946, saying that he had seen the recent announcement but "hoped the College would still sponsor a strong professional program for hospital personnel." Though this was not a strong definitive approval, it was a *jacta est alia* (the die is cast) acceptance of the future direction of the College. In any case, it brought immense relief and encouragement to the Board of Trustees and the Administration of the College.

To consolidate its loyalty to the Archbishop's wishes for a continuing emphasis on the education and training of hospital personnel,

on January 29, Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital sponsored the Annual Educational Clinic Day Program. Nearly 500 doctors from all parts of Michigan and adjoining states attended. Seven speakers from leading United States medical schools lectured on the newest techniques in surgery and medicine. Sister Patricia gave the opening invocation, and students set up scientific exhibits from the Departments of Medical Record Library Science, Anesthesiology and Pathology.

Dr. G. Maceachern, Associate Director of the American College of Surgeons, pronounced the clinic a pioneering contribution to medical education.

Ironically, that fall greater emphasis was placed on the organization of professional courses allied to the hospital than on the structure of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The College sought and received from the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association approval for the four-year education of Medical Record Librarians, X-ray Technologists and Medical Laboratory Technologists.

On June 15, the National Medical Record Library Association recognized a one-year diploma course in this field in addition to the College's established degree course.

The College Administration also took the occasion to bolster its techniques in public relations. On February 16, it petitioned and was granted membership in the American College Public Relations Association.

New Sister faculty in the fall of 1946 were Sister Mary Carmela Blust (Music); Sister Mary Claudia Friday (Spanish); Sister Mary Edwardine O'Connor (English); Sister Mary Georgia Brown (Library Science); and Sister Mary Madonna Weigel (Social Science).

At its monthly meeting, the faculty focused on two studies: "The Distribution of Marks" and "Faculty Use of the Library." Moreover, to update the quality of student scholarship, the faculty specified rigorous requirements for passing courses and comprehensive tests in the major field(s) of each graduate.

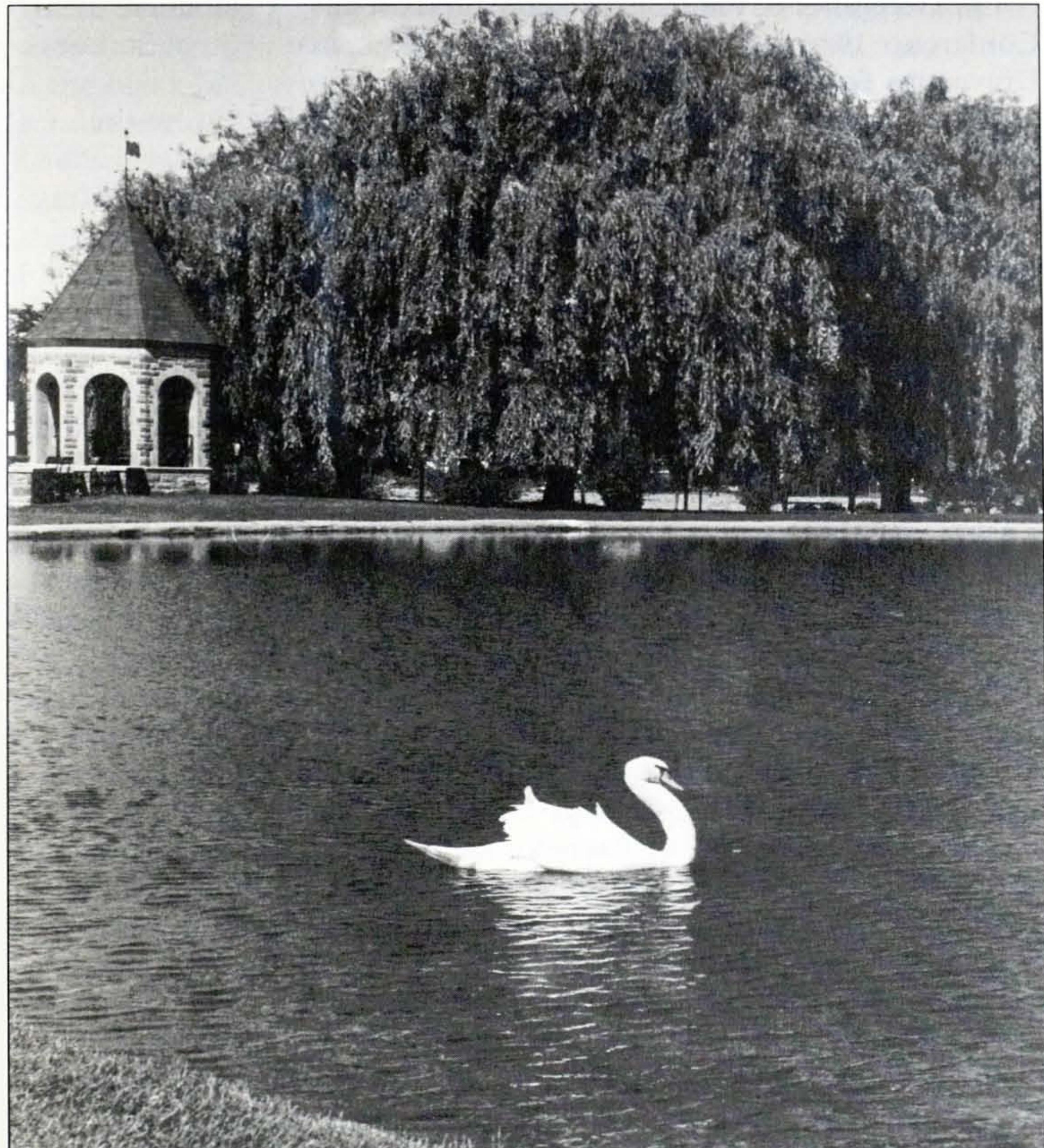
To spur recruiting efforts, faculty committees sponsored teas and luncheons for senior counselors from Detroit and suburban public and parochial schools.

For the first time, Standing Committees were established: Administrative Council, Library, Educational Policies and Student Personnel Services.

To no one's surprise, for the second time (1941 and 1946), Sister

Mary Edwardine O'Connor won the Avery Hopwood poetry contest at the University of Michigan summer session. Her talents were pronounced "phenomenal."

1946-47 was also the year of the big Harvard Tote Poke on which the Mercy emblem was especially "fetching" and added a distinctive air to this otherwise practical book bag. That fall, the College doors opened to 410 registrants. Students came from 13 states and several



A Mercy College true-to-life vision of "Swan Lake." The Belvedere (left) provided a natural stage for theatre events and evening soirees.

foreign countries—particularly in Latin America. Eighteen students took advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights to continue their education at Mercy College.

New student organizations also appeared: the Archery Club, the Fencing Club, Mercian Singers, and the Salmagundi Club. The latter was a potpourri of physical activities organized and supervised by Sister Mary Leila Koeppe. It was one of the most popular new clubs.

On December 8, the College sponsored an all-day Cana Conference directed by the Reverend L.J. Weitzman, S.J., of St. Louis University. Students served as hostesses.

Of all student activities in 1946-47, the most moving were the Foundress Day Program, December 12, at which the 18 World War II veteran students, in uniform, conducted a military candle-lighting ceremony and, in the closing days of October, the Living Rosary, sponsored by the Sodality.

In order to extend the cultural productions of the College to the Northwest Detroit community, the College changed the name "Artists Series" to "The McAuley Auditorium Series" and opened its lectures, music and drama to the public. Among the offerings were Henri Gheon's "Christmas in the Village Square," performed by the Mercian Players and Singers; the National Classic Theatre of New York production of "The Merchant of Venice," under the direction of Clare Tree Major; Mortimer Adler, professor of Philosophy of Law at the University of Chicago and author of the best-seller, *How to Read a Book*; and Father John Keller, promoter of "The Christophers."

On June 5, 1947, Cardinal Mooney conferred the Bachelor of Arts degree on Sisters Mary George Fisher, Paschal Kelly, Leila Koeppe, (Austina) Elizabeth LaForest, Celeste Schneider, and three lay graduates; the Bachelor of Science degree on Sister Mary Elise Michelin and seven lay students; the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree on Sisters Mary Charlene Curl and Gerald Hastings, and four lay students. The Diploma in Anesthesiology was bestowed on five lay graduates, and the Diploma in Nursing on 152 lay students, two Sisters of St. Joseph and Sister Mary Vita Pandolfo.

The commencement address was delivered by the Reverend Maurice Sheehy of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and brother of Sister Mary Maurice Sheehy. Earlier, at the Baccalaureate Mass, the Reverend Pius Barth, O.F.M., addressed the graduates.

Graduation from Mercy College gave each new alumna the privi-

lege of wearing the College ring, which had been designed in March 1947. A blue crest spinelle faceted to scintillate from a deep sapphire blue to ice blue was encircled by the name of the College. Embossed on the silver shank was the College coat-of-arms and the class year. The coat-of-arms was designed by James E. Pierce, Harvard scholar of heraldry. The silver cross signified the Religious Sisters of Mercy; the open book symbolized academia, with the Mercy College motto "Maria, Sedes Sapientiae" (Mary, Seat of Wisdom) inscribed on its pages and signifying Christian scholarship. The three gold canettes on the black background were taken from the coat-of-arms of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Originally the canettes were borrowed from the shield of Antoine Cadillac, founder of Detroit. Accordingly, it read: "Mercy College is an institution of Christian education established in the Archdiocese of Detroit under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy."



## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROLIFERATE: 1947 TO 1948

In 1947-1948, eight years after its inception, the College freely published in its catalogue and in the local state media the fact that its programs were open to all qualified students.

Father Reckinger opened the school year on September 22 in McAuley Auditorium with a Mass of the Holy Spirit. Of the 517 registrants in attendance, 232 were enrolled in the Arts and Science Division, and 339 in the various diploma courses. One hundred eight students in the Basic Professional were in their first year on campus.

Among the new students were 22 transfers in Arts and Science, 24 veterans taking advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights, and several foreign registrants from Canada, Ireland, Puerto Rico and South America.

Among the seven new faculty members, three were very accomplished Sisters of Mercy: Sister (Albert) Marie Flick (Nursing); Sister Mary Roberta Roberts (French and Spanish); and Sister Marie Jeanne d'Arc (Director of Nursing Education at Mount Carmel). Among the returning faculty was Sister Mary Marguerite Butler.

One of the most productive changes was the addition of Sister (Albert) Marie Flick as Director of Nursing. At this time both the three-year diploma course and the five-year degree course were

undergoing revisions due to advances in the field. No one recognized those basic and fluctuating shifts as thoroughly as did the new director. During the next several years under her tutelage, the Nursing Program at Mercy College kept pace with the most current trends in the health field, and began to emerge as a national educational leader.

Sister Mary Roberta, fluent in both French and Spanish, skillfully maneuvered the Romance languages into the schedule gaps of professional as well as Liberal Arts students.

Lay teachers at that time included Leo Buss (Biology); John Nash (Sociology); L.W. Clark (Chemistry); James H. Donahue (Drawing and Design); Kathryn Korematsu (Bacteriology); and Dr. Lawrence Gardner (Pathology). The latter had recently been distinguished by his election to three prestigious pathology societies.

Several faculty members were elected to state and national positions in their respective fields; several were hosts of local, state or national meetings or addressed them; several attended meetings in their major areas. From March 22 to April 2, a 30-hour course in Medical Ethics was presented by Father Edwin Heath, S.J., University of Cincinnati, to interns, faculty and advanced students at Mount Carmel, the College Hospital.

Commenting on the proliferation of student clubs, one Mercian said, "From test tubes to stage props, there's a club for it." The newest one was El Club Español.

With numerous teas and luncheons, the student season swung into action: sponsoring Mary Sullivan of the well-known "Brady Plan"; honoring the visiting Mother General of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy and the Board of Trustees at the Foundation Day Program; promoting the disc depicting the dire needs of foreign students; feeding the elderly at a Thanksgiving dinner; entertaining orphans at a Christmas party; sponsoring a clothing and food drive for Irene Lazar's Hungarian relatives and friends; collecting toys, book and dolls for missions at home and abroad; and teaching catechism on Saturday mornings.

Students rejoiced at the religious reception of Rosemary Budd and the conversion of Mabel Rashley to Catholicism. They also shared the sorrow of Mother Carmelita and the Sisters of Mercy at the sudden death of Architect Charles J. Sullivan on February 11. Mr. Sullivan had designed the Mercy College campus. He had visited the College often and was always interested in its progress. He had often

slipped into the chapel to pray, and adorned the altars and lobby with a profusion of flowers for the "big" days. It was clear that he would live on in prayer for his friendship, loyalty and service.

As in the previous year, Mercians participated in the National Community Chest Drive and assisted in a house-to-house canvass to aid the Red Feather services to family, health, child care, recreation and planning services.

It was clear from the annals of the College that, since the war, many Americans—especially Mercians—were more concerned with the welfare of those around them than with their own comfort and enjoyment. "What can we do to equalize the horrors and sacrifices of those at home and abroad?" seemed to be the lodestar which pointed the way "to give" rather than "to take."

Students commented on the "quiet little Mercy nun" in their midst for a few weeks, garnering supplies for her mission. Then, after she had left, they heard of her destination—the Mahaica Leprosarium near Georgetown, British Guiana—to join Sister Mary Pierre LeClaire, also from the Province of Detroit, and eight other Sisters. They could not comprehend Sister Mary Noel Walejewski's heroism. "She doesn't realize what she did to us except to make us try harder than ever," remarked one Mercian.

The McAuley Auditorium Series, planned by an ad hoc committee of divisional chairpersons, was well received by appreciative audiences of students and the neighboring community. Outstanding presentations and speakers that year included the Reverend Henri Renard, S.J., distinguished Thomistic scholar; Edgar Guest, Michigan's poet; the Chinese Theater in "An Evening in Cathay"; the "Madrigals" under the direction of Professor August Maekelberghe, well-known conductor and composer; and the "piece de resistance," by the Right Reverend Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen. It was through the persuasion of Father John Finnegan, theology faculty member at the College and long-time friend and classmate of this famous speaker, that Monsignor Sheen was prevailed upon to open the McAuley Series for the next several years. It was not uncommon, on such occasions, to find the beautifully arranged stage denuded of everything from the cyclorama and flies, to set up extra chairs for devotees of this popular speaker. During the "come-all-ya," Monsignor Sheen directed the ushers and beamed on all the late-comers as they clambered up the stage stairs to form a solid coterie of listeners behind him, beside him, and before him.

A photographic art display called "Mercian History in Pictures" was arranged by Cass Pieronek, official College photographer. Three pictures finished in gold-tone with matching mats and frames were enlarged and exhibited: the first showed an unusual cloud effect as background for McAuley Auditorium; the second, the interior of the College chapel accentuating the marble crucifixion group, the bronze tabernacle, and the patterned bronze gate of the communion rail; the third, the grotto where the cloud formation served as a crown of light for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

During the spring of 1948, an Alumnae Association, limited to degree students, was established and officers from the classes of 1946 and 1947 were elected.

At the end of her report on Alumnae Day, May 23, treasurer Virginia O'Leary announced the establishment of two full-tuition scholarships: the Mother Mary Carmelita Manning and the Mother Mary Raymund O'Leary scholarships, honoring the first and second Provincials of the Province of Detroit under whom Mercy College was founded in 1941. Virginia O'Leary stated that the scholarships would be financed by an endowment set up by the alumnae and the Salmagundi Club.

For the first time, tuition was increased from \$75 a semester to \$90; board and room, to \$250 a semester. Summer work programs helped many students cover their expenses.

The first Honors Convocation was held in the Great Hall on May 25, 1948, with academic and service honors bestowed on qualified students.

Baccalaureate speaker was the Reverend Francis L. Filas, S.J., from the University of Detroit. Cardinal Mooney conferred the degrees on 25 graduates and diplomas on six in Medical Record Library Science, five in Anesthesiology and 148 in the Basic Professional program. The following Sisters of Mercy received Bachelor of Arts degrees: Sisters Mary (Alphonse) Corinne Bart, Leonard Beaudoin, (Protase) Edna Marie LeRoux, Cecile Ripslinger, Jeanne Salois, and Natalie Varano. Bachelor of Science degrees were awarded to Sisters Mary (Cajetan) Barbara Galant and Agnes Marie Matthews. Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education recipients were Sisters Mary Audrey Adelman, Damien Miller, Johnita Schissel, and Francis Xavier Villerot. Sister Mary Concetta Neibauer received a Diploma in Nursing.

The Very Reverend John J. McClafferty, Catholic University of America, delivered the commencement address.



## SISTER MARY LIDWINA: 1948 TO 1949

In the fall of 1948, registration for students in the Division of Arts and Science showed a 12 percent increase over the previous year. Almost 600 were now enrolled in various degree and diploma programs.

In August, Sister Mary Aloysia Rochford, Academic Dean, left the College to pursue a hospital-based position, and Sister Mary Helene Begue became temporary Dean. She, in turn, was replaced in January 1949 by Sister Mary Lucille Middleton.

Hardly had the fall semester approached when Sister Mary Lidwina Reps, Registrar, died on September 4. Her position was assumed by Sister Mary (Alphonse) Corinne Bart. This was a difficult time for both faculty and students. No one had ever done as much for Teacher Education as had Sister Lidwina. Her planning, her organization, her counseling, her teaching, her familiarity with state teacher certification requirements and state certification officers would be sorely missed. Those who knew her best knew how often and sincerely she prayed that her beloved Lithuania, from which she had emigrated in 1914, would one day be a free and sovereign nation once again. "She went to God," we would say, "to hasten this event."

Sister Mary Maurice Sheehy left the staff of Catholic University, where she had taught for 15 years, to join the Mercy College faculty

in 1948 as Director of Nursing Education. Sister Mary Bridget O'Brien returned after a year's absence to teach English and German. Sister Mary Jeanne Salois was appointed instructor in Home Economics. Memories also bring back lay teachers: Dr. Lisbeth Beynon (Chemistry) and Stella Warfield (Nursing) from Georgetown University.

The 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Michigan (1873-1948) was observed on September 24. The Most Reverend Allan J. Babcock, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, celebrated a Solemn High Mass, with faculty and students attending in academic attire. Several hundred students from Our Lady of Mercy High School also joined the College in celebrating this happy occasion. Bishop Babcock, who had known the Sisters of Mercy for several years, spoke movingly of the early experiences of the Sisters of Mercy in Michigan, particularly in Ann Arbor.

At this time the general purpose of the College remained unchanged, but the aims were reworded in five strong statements under the categories of religious, intellectual, social, physical and vocational.

Faculty meetings focused on "Instructional Practices" and on "The Teacher—His qualities and the Appraisal of His Teaching." Faculty and administration were not only represented at various state and national meetings of import, but several also distinguished themselves with scholarly publications.

Standing committees were recast: Admissions, Honors, Scholarships, Public Relations, Testing and Counseling. These Committees met as need indicated.

On October 22, the College hosted the 12th annual meeting of the Catholic Colleges of Michigan. Father Pius Barth, O.F.M., addressed the administrators and faculty from 13 institutions who had come from Michigan and neighboring states to discuss common personnel problems.

In November, the College also hosted the state convention of Registered Medical Record Librarians.

As Director of Nursing Education, Sister Mary Maurice Sheehy supervised all Mercy College contacts with the hospitals which provided clinical experience for Registered Nurses and with the clinical faculty of those institutions. Although she had been on campus less than a year, she sensed the confusion of relationship between the College and the hospitals. On March 5, Sister Maurice called a meet-

ing of the College and hospital administrators, the campus nursing faculty and the hospital clinical faculty. She presented a plan that would make Mercy School of Nursing of Detroit an affiliate of the College, rather than an essential part of it. Her plan was deferred for further consideration.

Sister Maurice also planned and monitored the program in which registered nurses returned to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education degree.

On March 12, Mercians proudly attended the First Profession of



*The Rose Arbor.*

Sisters Mary Agneta Bush and Rosellen Mortimore, both of the class of 1946.

In the spring of 1949, a new ornamental cast iron fence enclosed the entire campus. "To keep us in or to keep the world out?" pondered admiring Mercians.

Student clubs continued to multiply and change. The Chemistry Club became a member of the Student Associate Group of the Detroit Section of the American Chemical Society. On February 21, the Chemistry Club hosted the unit at which students from several colleges presented papers describing original research.

El Español and Le Cercle Francais merged to become a Romance Language Club. The moderator, Sister Mary Roberta, also began teaching English as a Second Language to students from foreign countries.

Sister Mary Marguerite, who had returned to the campus in the fall of 1947 after a two-year absence, seemed by her renewed presence to revitalize interest in speech and drama. The students of that department hosted an autumn tea for the Broadway cast of "The Heiress," then appearing in Detroit. Faculty, students and guests mingled and visited with Basil Rathbone, Patricia Collenge and Beatrice Straight.

An original ballet-choral interpretation of "Le Jongleur de Notre Dame" was presented in December, with noted visitors from the Fordham Theatre Department in attendance. Albert McCleery, Director of the University Theatre at Fordham, complimented the cast, describing the production as "delicate and tender in its simplicity."

The Players also experimented with arena-theater production in their presentation of "Harlequinade." The final production of the year was also unique: The Players, Singers, and Dancers collaborated to produce "The Album." Of special interest were "The Lonesome Train" and excerpts from Shakespearean productions of past years.

It is worth noting that in all these early productions, women took male roles. A few years later, Sister Marguerite was overwhelmed with requests from male actors from Detroit asking to audition for coveted male roles under her direction.

Forty-four graduates received degrees, and 95 received diplomas at the eighth annual commencement, June 4, 1949. Sixteen Sisters of Mercy were among those on whom degrees were conferred: Bachelor of Arts: Sisters Mary Francina Fabiano, Rose Marie Iden, Innocence

Kawa, Doris Kish, (Lillian) Marjorie Koerner, Sophia Kubiak, Verena Pastotnik, Jeanette Schneider, Albin Tomaszewski and Jane Marie VanderLaan; Bachelor of Science in Nursing: Sisters Mary Bernard Bauer and Rosellen Mortimore; Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education: Sisters Mary Kieran Drinan, Lily Foco, Maurita Sengelaub and Patrice Sinnott.

Cardinal Mooney conferred the degrees, and the Honorable Matthew McGuire, eminent jurist and Associate Justice of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, delivered the commencement address.

Processional and recessional organ music was furnished by August Maekelberghe.



*The grotto, patterned after Lourdes, France.*



## McAULEY SCHOOL OF NURSING OF DETROIT: 1949 TO 1950

The President's message to new and former students in the fall of 1949 states so clearly and cogently the "raison d'etre" of Mercy College that it is reprinted here in its entirety.

To our new and former students Mercy extends a sincere and cordial welcome.

You have chosen to pursue your high education on a campus dedicated to Our Lady. "Mary, Seat of Wisdom" is the motto inscribed on the College seal. Under her protection you will study, you will pray, and you will recreate.

All of these intellectual and practical experiences will be unified, integrated and vitalized by the courses in religion and philosophy. Your entire program of studies and co-curricular activities will be based upon the realization that you are students destined for citizenship in two worlds—earth and Heaven.

Great stress is being placed today upon the need of Christian leaders, well instructed in the principles of their faith as well as in the secular arts and sciences.

Opportunities for exercising such leadership and for group responsibility will frequently be offered you on

Mercy campus. The daily large and small ways of being leaders right here in our College community are manifold.

Being conscientious in preparing class assignments, seeing through any co-curricular responsibility entrusted to you, contributing your share to the morale and spirit of the entire College—these are real forms of leadership that will carry over into your post-college life.

May Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, be your protector, counselor and inspiration at Mercy.

The year 1949-50 saw great strides in curriculum development. Culminating a period of study and experiment, a revision of the curriculum organization was adopted. The instructional material was divided into seven major divisions of knowledge, each united within itself by related subject matter and specific aims. Each of the divisional directors had one or more departmental heads under his/her direction.

New faculty members included Sister Mary Bonaventure Doyle (Education); Sister Mary Celeste Schneider (Home Economics); Sister Mary Elise Michelin (Chemistry and Biology); Sister Mary Ellen Bossong (Nursing Education); Sister Mary Maurita Sengelaub (Nursing Arts) and Sister Mary Madonna Weigel (History).

Under the innovative leadership of Sisters Mary Edwardine O'Connor and Inez Hanley, the faculties of the English, Speech, Art and Music Departments devised a unique course in Humanities and shared the responsibility of teaching it. Critiques were favorable: "Exciting!" "Sensible!" "Mind-freeing!" "Balanced!" "Total picture!"

Meanwhile, great impetus was given to the Home Economics Department when Sister Mary Celeste Schneider was named departmental head. Recently finished with her doctoral program at Michigan State University, Sister Celeste was active in local, state, and national organizations. Her thorough knowledge and expertise in the fields of nutrition and clothing enabled her to develop this department in several directions, extending to General Home Economics, Dietetics, Marketing and Interior Design. Sister Celeste designed and supervised the construction of a clothing laboratory, making the department "a small, but rare jewel," as Sister Patricia aptly remarked.

Former Academic Dean, Sister Mary Justine Sabourin, joined the faculty once more, this time in the field of Education, and was

charged with designing and supervision the construction of an Education Laboratory. Soon shelves and cabinets took shape under the talented workmanship of George Sanderson. Several essential reference books on classroom procedures and lesson-planning, as well as globes, charts and maps were added. All the Caldecott Medal Books and the Newberry Award books through the 1950s were included in the children's literature section.

The Department of Speech and Drama was also undergoing curricular and physical development. By this time, Sister Marguerite had achieved an enviable reputation as director of the Mercian Players. Under her supervision, the College students not only performed with artistic realism; they learned to make scenery from scratch, construct validated costumes, move sets and arrange lighting. Two rooms on the fourth floor of the Administration Building were carpeted and curtained to Sister Marguerite's specifications, providing a Little Theater and a lecture room. The Control Room was fitted out for radio broadcasting, thus adding the possibility of additional courses and facilities.

Under the supervision of Sister Mary Elise Michelin, renovations were made and new equipment was installed in the chemistry and medical technology laboratories, adding to the effectiveness of the department.

In September 1949, Sister (Albert) Marie Flick submitted a report to the Michigan Commission on College Accreditation. As a consequence, the Division of Nursing was given full accreditation for a two-year period, the first institution in Michigan to earn this distinction. Also in September, a contract between Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital and Mercy College Division of Nursing integrated the two institutions, as the degree nursing program required. Afterward, Sister Patricia frequently alluded to Mount Carmel as our "College Hospital." Sister (Albert) Marie also completed arrangements for Public Health Affiliation with Wayne State University.

In the spring of 1950, the Educational Policies Committee mandated comprehensives for all students except those in the nursing degree program. The latter would take the National League of Nursing Education Standardized Tests as they completed each series of clinical work.

Further clarification was also made relating to the organization of the diploma nursing program. Sister Mary Maurice Sheehy explained as follows:

There will be three centers for instruction in basic sciences: Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital of Detroit, and St. Lawrence Hospital of Lansing. Such instruction will last nine months. Then the students will complete their two years of clinical rotation at one of the seven units to which they applied for admission: Mercy-staffed Hospitals in Detroit (2), Ann Arbor, Pontiac, Jackson, Lansing and Battle Creek. These three centers and seven clinical units will become known as Mercy School of Nursing of Detroit. From the point of this organization, if approved, the title Mercy College of Nursing will be formally abrogated. However, there will still be an affiliation with Mercy College in relation to registration and the conferring of diplomas. The inclusion of the clinical faculty from the Mercy School of Nursing in Detroit at regular faculty meetings on campus is still a matter of debate. By virtue of her role as director of Nursing Education, Sister Maurice became the coordinator of the Basic Professional Program and chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Mercy School of Nursing of Detroit.

The plan was approved, and thus it was made clear that Mercy College sponsored and was totally responsible for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing under the direction of Sister (Albert) Marie Flick and for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education under Sister Maurice Sheehy. The College also agreed to continue to consider Mercy School of Nursing of Detroit as a much desired affiliate. Sister Maurice also proposed an accelerated Nursing Education program, but it was deferred for additional study.

The Division of Social Relations formulated and executed plans enabling sociology majors to engage in volunteer field work for the Highland Park Community Welfare Agency.

The Medical Technology laboratories at Mount Carmel were approved for a four-year residency in Pathology. This recognition was outstanding, since usual approval was for a one- or two-year residency.

To make the educational facilities of the College available to adult groups, evening classes were offered in Practical Sewing, Interior Design, Parliamentary Procedure, Principles of Speech, Home

Nursing and French Conversation. Sixty-two registrants availed themselves of these opportunities.

At the request of the President of the College, Sister Mary Celeste Schneider brought together the mothers of the students, alumnae and friends of the faculty for their "spiritual, social and material advantage." The "Mercy League," as it was called in September 1949, would bring not only uncontested support to all College endeavors for years to come, but would also assist generously in financial enterprises.

Faculty meetings that year stressed "Improvement of Instruction" and "The Instructor's Role in the Guidance Program." Faculty participation in professional meetings was frequent and widespread. Sister Patricia was elected president of the Association of Catholic Colleges of Michigan at their October meeting. Sister Mary Georgia Brown was elected vice-president of the Michigan unit of the National Catholic Library Association in April. Sister Mary Ellen Bossong was elected to the Board of Directors of the Detroit Nursing Association. Also, the administration believed it was time to assign rank to all current faculty. Such a move would necessarily involve salary increases or decreases. Acknowledging that this matter required more time for discussion by the Board of Trustees and the administration, it was deferred until the following year.

Both faculty and students published works and participated in local and national art shows. At the National Association Art Contest, junior Marian Clement won an honor award for one of the resource pictures she used in producing "The Ford Rouge Plant." The Mercian Players presented "Medea," and a spring concert consisting of an original modern-dance interpretation of Thomas Merton's biography. Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic Honorary Society, focusing on leadership and service, was established on campus in the spring of 1950.

By far the most important development of 1949-50 was the feeling of confidence from both administration and faculty that the College was prepared to apply for North Central Accreditation. With this in mind, in January 1950, Sister Patricia persuaded Sister Mary Justine "to do a good girl-scout act," namely, to supervise the preparation of the multitude of forms required for accreditation by the North Central organization. No one ever said no to the President of the College, so before completely realizing the nature of the "good girl-scout act," Sister Justine replied, "Of course!" The task took six

months and resulted in several hundred pages in two bound volumes, plus numerous charts and illustrations. Sister Justine was ably supported in this task by Sister Mary (Alphonse) Corinne Bart, Registrar.

On June 5, 1950, Cardinal Mooney conferred Bachelor of Arts degrees on 12 Sisters of Mercy and one lay person: Sisters Mary Ignatius Denay, Anita Deuling, Robert Irish, Vivian Johnson, Josephine Koschatski, Irenaea Krause, Angela LeFebvre, Benedetta Pastucha, Rosalie Pavlowski, Loyola Sabourin and Emma Voisine. The degree of Bachelor of Science was granted to 11 lay students. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree was conferred on 31 lay students and on Sisters Mary Anna Poulin and (Leonette) Madeline Sage. Sisters Mary Giles Brinker and Coralita Ellerbrock were granted the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education.

The diploma in Medical Record Library Science was conferred on Sister Mary Florence Salatka and one lay student; the diploma in anesthesiology, on 12 lay students and the diploma in Nursing on 74 lay students.

Father Reckinger, Chaplain of the College, introduced the Reverend Pius Barth, O.F.M., of North Central fame, who addressed the graduates on "Schools That Make a Difference." Sister Patricia presented the candidates for commencement honors.