TO THE ALUMNI

Youth, what man's age is like to be doth show:
We may our ends by our beginnings know.

Sir John Denham

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This history of the first quarter century of Mount Saint Mary College owes its existence to the writers of the college newspapers and the local reporters and editors who have told its story day by day, week by week, and month by month. The chronicle here is year by year. Sincere thanks are due to Dr. Estelle McKeever and Mr. James McEnery who supplied me with the material needed. Sr. Marie Genevieve Love, Roberta Singer, and Irene Walsh Nunnari were most helpful in answering my many inquiries. Mary Mills, Kathryn Stevens, and Florence Price also looked up information when necessary. Anne Wilkins kindly typed the final copy of publication. Barbara Currier and Brendan Coyne have been involved in every stage of the composition of this history, from first planning to final printing. The errors and omissions are, of course, the author's responsibility. May readers find as few as possible. Writing Beginnings was fun from start to finish.

This history is dedicated to the alumni because it was their story then as students, and it is still their story now as alumni. They made it possible to happen, and they make it possible to tell. They are the Beginnings of Mount Saint Mary College.

James F. Cotter
English Department
Mount Saint Mary College

25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Maureen Mack, Chairperson

Moncia Bastian '85
Mrs. Jane Bunt
Brendan Coyne
Barbara Currier '74
Larry Dauer '87
Sr. Leona Deboer

Dr. Patrick DeLuca
Mr. Albert O. Kingsley
Mr. Bill McDonough
Dr. Ernest R. Mills
Eileen McDonald Sassman '66
Ursula St. John '85

Sr. Catherine Walsh
On December 7, 1882, Mother M. Hyacinth and Mother M. Amanda of the Dominican Sisters at Second Street in New York City stood on a hill overlooking the Hudson River and the city of Newburgh and spoke to George McAlpin, a Scots Presbyterian, about the purchase of his attractive colonial home and the seven acres of land that he had put up for sale. Mother Hyacinth, the prioress of her order, and Mother Amanda, its novice mistress, so impressed Mr. McAlpin that he promised a personal donation of $5,000 toward the purchase of the property, valued at $24,000. Mr. McAlpin can be justly described as the first donor to the future Mount Saint Mary College.

In April 1883, Sr. Hildegarde was appointed superior and she and her associates, Sisters M. Justina, M. Egbert, and M. DeSales made the trip up the Hudson on a side-wheeled steamer, the Mary Powell, to establish Mount Saint Mary Academy in Newburgh. Classes for the St. Mary’s Parish students from across Gidney Avenue began that September in “The White House” as the mansion was called. When three years later, St. Mary’s Parish opened its own parochial school, the infant academy faced its first crisis in diminished numbers. However, the school continued to grow and by 1913 when the adjoining Van Duzer estate, “Rosenhof,” of forty-eight additional acres, also came up for sale, the sisters purchased the property for $63,000, although it was valued at nearly twice that amount. The villa mansion, in the Gothic Revival style of country architecture promoted by Andrew Jackson Downing of Newburgh, still stands, newly renovated, while the classical White House was demolished half a century ago.
As they entered Newburgh Bay, the triumph of the River was established. This is a spot in sooth, that has few equals in the region, though Eve still insisted that the excellence of the view was in its softness rather than in its grandeur. The country houses or boxes were neat, well placed and exceedingly numerous. The heights around the town of Newburgh in particular were fairly dotted with them, though Mr. Effingham shook his head as he saw one Grecian temple appear after another.

Henry Hudson himself had observed that the spot was a fair place to build a town. With its breathtaking views of the steepled city and flowing river, their hillside site surely seemed to the sisters to be close to heaven.

By the turn of the century, the novices had moved up from New York City, and the Motherhouse location had been changed from Second Street to Mount Saint Mary. The Academy, called the Greater Mount Saint Mary, was built in 1927 and replaced the Villa Madonna, as the Van Duzer mansion was now called, as the principal school. The store ouse at the summit of the hill was rebuilt as the Casa San Jose, while the stable was converted into a music school appropriately named the Domus Angelorum. the carriage room of the stable was remodeled and used as a recital hall--plays are still performed there--and the hay loft was transformed into a number of individual practice rooms, now serving as snug faculty offices. The Casa was made into a grade school, which 1984 Vice Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro attended in the arly 1940's, and the Academy served as the high school facility. In 1950, Bishop Dunn Memorial School was built as a modern grade school to accommodate the increasing need for new private school education at the elementary level.

Since the Dominican Sisters were involved in education in Newburgh and throughout New York-New Jersey area and as far as Puerto Rico, the demand for a Teacher Training program was evident. Mount Saint Mary Normal and Training School received certification in September 1930 from the New York State Education Department in Albany. In June 1934, the Commissioner of Education granted full approval to the program and the school received the authority to issue Teachers' Certificates at the conclusion of the three-year training. The certification enabled the sisters to teach in elementary schools of New York and to enroll in any college in the state in order to complete work for a degree. In 1943, affiliation with
Catholic University was obtained and Normal School credits were accepted toward the degree.

In January 1955, the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York granted a provisional charter with the power to grant the degree of Associate in Arts upon completion of the registered three-year curriculum. The Normal School thus became a liberal arts college. Under this charter, the candidate could receive an Associate in Arts degree with a third year toward degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Education, and complete the fourth year of academic studies at an accredited four-year institution.

As a new Junior College, Mount Saint Mary College took up residence in the original Van Duzer mansion, renamed the Villa Madonna. By 1956, the kitchen had been converted into a combined biology-physics laboratory; the laundry and service areas were made into workrooms for the laboratories; the former dining room was converted into a classroom; and the handsome blue and crystal parlor became the library. Second floor bedrooms were remodeled for use as additional classrooms.

On October 30, 1959, the Board of Regents again voted to amend the college charter to expand the statement of purposes of the institution: "to set for itself the purpose of preparing its students to take up their roles in the religious, intellectual, social, economic and physical world of which they should form a vital part." On receiving this charter amendment, Mother M. Leo Vincent Short, the Superior of the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh, and her Council authorized the opening of the college to lay women in September 1960. At the same time, they inaugurated a building program for the Mount Saint Mary College campus. The provisional charter was further amended and extended on January 26, 1962, and an absolute charter was issued by the Regents of the State of New York on June 25, 1965. The college received the authority of grant the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science in Education degrees, as well as the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Applied Science for Nurses. In June 1962, the Mount granted its first bachelor's degree, a Bachelor of Science in Education. The next year, it granted four Bachelor of Arts degrees to graduating Sisters.

The beginnings in the Villa were modest enough. In 1959, there were four full-time teaching members of the faculty, two administrators, and four part-time members serving as clerical staff. By 1962, a year before Aquinas Hall opened, the faculty numbered fifteen full-time and ten part-time. At the time, too, there were three full-time members of the administrative staff and ten part-time. In the fall of 1960, eight full-time lay students came to the Mount from Newburgh, Kingston, Northern New Jersey, and the Bronx. They joined twenty-four Dominican Sisters who were already at different stages of their education. In 1960-61 they made up a grand total of forty-two full time students.
In the first issue of the first school paper, *The Pioneer*, the student editor Barbara Lascow opened with an unsigned article that is worth quoting in full:

A Beginning

On November 9, 1960, John Kennedy made history when he accepted his election as President of the United States. We who watched that drama unfold were also making history. Shortly before the nation chose a new President, Mount Saint Mary College had received its first small group of lay students.

We will probably never have another day like that one. After spending almost half the day waiting for Mr. Kennedy to accept the election, we had finally been sent back to class—but not for long. About ten minutes later the ringing of a small bell sent the whole student body into an uproar. For we were excited and moved not only by Mr. Kennedy's acceptance speech, but also by the experience of a rare part of the life of this College—a day when the entire faculty and student body could come together in one small room.

November 9, 1960, can never be repeated. But we would not wish it to be. Just as it represented a beginning on the national level, so it represented a beginning for the College. It was probably very significant that the two coincided, because our hope for the future is equally firm for both. Our country is going to grow and to stay strong and our own strength will be so much more vital because we will be growing with it.

Just three years later, on November 22, 1963, when the college had moved from the Villa to the new Aquinas Hall and the bells were no longer hand-rung, the president of the Mount, Mother Leo Vincent, went from classroom to classroom to inform students and faculty that President Kennedy had been assassinated. Classes were cancelled that day. The span of time that the college had spent in the Villa in its "Beginning" was as unique as John Kennedy's stay in office, and had lasted just as long.

The first three resident students in 1960 lived off campus; in 1961, the number of residents increased to sixteen and facilities for them were prepared on the third floor of the villa. The three floors of the Gothic mansion thus made a compact and intimate college community. The rules were strict: "Students are tardy if they are not in the classroom when the opening prayer is said." There was even an annual student retreat in the spring. But many social events and activities also took place, as reported in *The Pioneer* (Vol. I, No. 1) for February 1961: Attendance at a concert given by Carmen Cavallero, "poet of the piano," at Newburgh Free Academy; a Halloween dance at Marist College, which had opened to lay students four years previously; and a Christmas buffet luncheon with music and caroling. The second,
and final issue of *The Pioneer* for May told of a trip to New York City to see *The Miracle Worker* on February 22. After the performance, fog forced the group on its way home to return to the city and spend the night there.

Mount Saint Mary College played its first basketball game on March 21, 1961, at the gym on the college campus against Orange County Community College. Since the whole student body of the Mounties made up the team, the inexperienced players got off to a slow start, falling behind by sixteen points before scoring. They then managed to match their opponents point by point, but lost by a final score of 44-29. The game was headlined next day in *The Evening News*. Lorraine Santacroce was then, and long after, the dedicated coach.

*Page 12*

On May 17 of that year, the members of the faculty were treated to a day at Bear Mountain by all nine lay students of the class. As reported in *The Pioneer*: "We had a good lunch, a beautiful lake, a very unusual baseball game, and many many bugs. The following day we all gathered for lunch in the reading room to eat the surplus food. The experience was worth the insect bites, and it gave everyone some much-needed relaxation before our exams of the week of May 22-26. Thus we write *finis* to our first year of college at Mt. St. Mary." On that day, May 18, after the happy lunch, the faculty gathered for its first meeting. Plans for the new college were outlined and courses prepared for the following year.

Mother M. Leo Vincent Short, the Superior of the Newburgh Dominicans since 1959, was President and co-founder of the college with Sr. Mary Vincent Ralph who served as the first Academic Dean. Both had served in teaching and administrative capacities on the elementary and secondary levels and both were fully committed to making the fledgling college a success. The college also owed a great deal to the efforts of Sr. M. Thomas Aquinas McManus who was the first principal of Mount Saint Mary Normal and Training School from 1930 to 1940. After her death in 1947, the work was continued by Sr. Mary Vincent and by Sr. M. Margaret Michael Maroney who directed the student teacher program.

Also on the faculty the first year were Sr. Mary Consilia O'Brien who, besides teaching philosophy, directed the Reading Center that she had inaugurated at the Casa in 1957. This remedial program became the basis of the special education certification at the Mount. She was also a popular teacher in the evening classes that were begun at this time. Fr. Edward P. Doyle, O.P., taught theology and also served as the first college chaplain. Sr. M. Joan Roberta Woods taught English and speech; she was
involved too in the teacher-training program together with Sr. Margaret Michael. The first lay person to
join the faculty in September 1960 was James V. McEnery who came to the Mount from Cornwall Junior
High School's English Department. He has the distinction as well of being the only faculty member whose
tenure at the college spans the entire twenty-five
years of its history. Sr. Mary Francis McDonald took the responsibilities of the Latin and history courses in
hand, besides serving as the college's first Dean of Students. Sr. Mary Jean McGivern, who, like Sr. Mary
Consilia and Sr. Mary Francis, held a doctorate from
Catholic University, taught biology. She was assisted by Dr. Raymond Wood of Orange County
Community College. Br. Andrew Molloy of Marist College taught chemistry. Lending her energy and
humor to the teaching of French was Sr. Marie Therese Pomerleau ("Ma Soeur") who had obtained her
doctorate from Fordham University. Sr. M. Jeanne d' Arc McCann was an instructor of music and
responsible, as we shall see, for the success of "The Singing Sisters."

A number of other Dominican Sisters served as part-time instructors. Lamp Light, which replaced the
mimeographed Pioneer, announced in its December 1961 edition (beautifully printed but the
only issue of that year) that among the "new instructors added to the college faculty", were Sr. Mary
Elaine Dostal in the mathematics department; Sr. Mary Eleanor Mahoney, with a Ph.D; in Sacred Science
from Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana; and Sr. M. Eusebio Guala in the area of art
appreciation. Sr. Marie Genevieve Love spent her time between teaching mathematics at the Villa and
completing her doctorate at Teachers College of Columbia University. Running the library and preparing
for the acquisition of numerous books for programs in the new building, Sr. Bernard Joseph Gibbs kept
herself and her assistant, Marie Bennett, busy at all times.

The agenda for the faculty meeting of January 26, 1962, has been preserved by Mr. McEnery. After the
opening prayer, reports on the curriculum work accomplished within the last month and the list of courses
to be taught each year were offered. Sample objectives and outlines for courses were handed out. These,
together with catalog entries and complete major outlines for four years were due by March 20, 1962. The
picture of a tightly knit and efficient operation
comes through in this first-recorded agenda of a meeting, the beginning of many of its kind.

In 1962, the Dominican Community purchased an estate in Balmville some two miles from the college
campus. At first intended partly as a summer home for the sisters, it became in September the

Page 14

residence hall for the thirty-eight entering resident students until, as planned at the time, a college
dormitory could be built. The former Dudley estate was renamed Rosary Heights. Of the 180 full- and
part-time students, twenty-six lay students enjoyed the luxurious surroundings of its twenty-three rooms, each with its own fireplace. There was even a swimming pool for warmer weather. Rosary Heights for the next few years served as the residence for underclasswomen, while the Villa remained the housing for juniors and seniors. The students were shuttled in an old bus (hastily purchased from Stewart Air Force Field and painted blue) from Balmville to the campus throughout the day, but many a former resident remembers having to walk the two miles after missing her ride. Since boarding students were not allowed to have their own cars, there was plenty of healthy exercise, even in the cold of winter. To sum up the growth of these first years at the college, the following statistics for sister and lay students may be helpful: In 1960-61 there were eighteen students, three of them residents; in 1961-62 there were thirty-five day students and sixteen residents, for a total of fifty-one; in 1962-63 there were sixty-seven day students and thirty-eight residents, for a total of 105. After Aquinas Hall opened, the numbers jump dramatically: in 1963-64 to 240 students, sixty-four of whom were residents, and in 1964-65 to 345, with 115 residents. By the end of that year, the faculty comprised eighteen sisters, seven laymen and eleven laywomen, and one priest.
On June 4, 1964, Mount Saint Mary College formally conferred degrees to its first full graduating class. Those who had entered in September 1960 and received degrees were Arlene Fasciano (who had scored half the team’s points in that first basketball game), Violet Fasciano (Student Government President), Mary Jane Hughes (who had provided lodgings for that foggy night in New York City), Mary Ann Kennedy (who had supported Nixon in the Kennedy election), Nicolina Martinisi, Frances Michalowski, and Barbara Lascow who graduated magna cum laude. Also graduating magna cum laude was a transfer student, Eileen Callahan, currently a teacher in the Social Sciences division. Among the sisters in the class, mention must be made of Sr. Alice Joseph Sullivan who as "Sister Pat" would teach in the mathematics department. That day thirty received their A.B. degrees and three their B.S. in Elementary Education. The Pioneers had lived up to their name and established a New Frontier.

Chapter II

OPENING AQUINAS HALL

The Newburgh-Beacon News for February 2, 1960, carried large front-page headlines: 4-Year Newburgh College Planned; and below architects' renderings of Aquinas Hall (the academic and administrative building of the proposed liberal arts college), Guzman Hall (the proposed religious novitiate), and Siena Hall (the religious juniorate, which was never built) the newspaper's headlines continued: Mount St. Mary College Will Be Non-Sectarian. The story began: "Newburgh is going to be a college city, with all the educational, cultural and economic advantages that accompany such a status." The next day, front-page banner headlines again declared: College Fund Campaign to Start. The initial goal of this campaign was to raise one million dollars. The public response to this undertaking by the Dominican Sisters was immediate and enthusiastic. The campaign actually passed its goal in two months: St. Mary's Parish alone pledged almost $100,000 in support. The community of religious had hit a responsive chord in the community of citizens, evident in the publicity that all phases of the college's progress received in the press. The Middletown Times Herald-Record, the Poughkeepsie Journal, and even The New York Times and The Herald Tribune, reported fund-raising developments for the proposed college.

The Newburgh-Beacon News summed up its hopes for the new institution in an editorial dated February 4, 1960:
A number of effects—all of them happy and promising for Newburgh’s future—may be seen coming from the announcement by the Dominican Sisters that they plan a four-year, non-sectarian college at Newburgh.

Page 17

The college building plans should:

- Provide Orange County and its environs with a high-caliber, four year college. That will mean additional facilities available to area students within easy reach of their homes, in an age when college opportunities are foreseen as becoming harder and harder to grasp because of mounting number of students.

- Boost the prestige of Newburgh as a city. The old town will have a new flavor added to it—the college-town flavor, which is usually a pleasant one and one productive of an improved cultural atmosphere.

- Spur the economy of the city and the area through, first of all, the construction work needed, and then subsequently through the many goods and services college students need. They need such basic things as clothes, living accommodations, food and the like, and local merchandising and business establishments will surely stand to benefit in supplying these needs for their new-found customers. Such optimism could have its practical side, as this editorial writer realized, and the benefits of the college to Newburgh have rarely been expressed so pointedly.

Sr. Mary Consilia, director general of the campaign, organized a number of public sessions on the plans for the college, and her dynamic personality helped to make the success of the fund-raising possible. More than three million dollars was needed, and from Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller to Dr. Harold Monson, the local school district superintendent, endorsements were warm and encouraging. Senators Jacob Javits and Kenneth Keating wrote to give their full support to “this most courageous and laudable venture.”

Aquinas Hall

Page 18

The New York City architects, Ferrenz and Taylor, proposed a design for the academic building that would cost an estimated two million dollars. However, Mother Leo Vincent noted in March 1961 that, because of expanded facilities and advanced technological equipment, the actual costs would exceed that amount, with a large library and auditorium being integrated into the classroom and administration building. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on June 27, 1961, with Most Rev. James H. Griffiths, auxiliary bishop of New York City, and Mother Leo Vincent doing the spadework. The group was led by
the Knights of Columbus in full-dress uniforms, and William J. Ryan, mayor of Newburgh, brought the greetings of the city. Bishop Griffiths then gave the main address, concluding: "From this day forward, a new torch will be lighted here on the banks of the Hudson."

On September 21, 1961, *The Evening News* (the new name of the *Newburgh-Beacon News*) announced that the Newburgh Dominican Sisters had signed a $3,875,000 contract with the John H. Eisele construction company of New York City. The buildings would be the residence for the novices and the academic-administrative building of the college. The college would provide for an estimated 750 students, the library would have a proposed capacity of 50,000 books, and the theater would accommodate an audience of 1,100 people. The building was to be compact, efficient and handsome, as the architect's rendering graphically demonstrated. In publicity brochures and newspaper releases, this image of the future college imprinted itself in full color on the public's mind.

From the spring of 1961 through the winter of 1962-63, every step of excavation and construction was a subject of news. "College Rises" was the caption of a front-page picture story of the January 30, 1962, issue of *The Evening News*. Steelworkers are shown erecting the skeleton of the college building, while the story traces the "progress" of the physical structure which, at that point, looked to be completed for a September opening. As the editorial in the student paper, now called the *Aquinas News*, for December 1962 reported, the students themselves may have shared the anticipation of the new college, but they had to live with the physical realities of the work in progress. "Muddle Through!" observed with tongue-in-cheek wryness and genuine wonder:

Gradually, the building started to take shape. The steel skeleton reached skyward. In the course of time, the metal bones of the structure were covered with sinews and flesh of brick, masonry, and glass. But, surrounding that rising dream called Aquinas Hall, remained the gross something called mud.

Long have we endured the inconvenience, the ugliness, and the dirt which construction entails. We fondly look forward to its departure. But our patience is still needed. God created from the slime of the earth, and we must endure a bit of that slime in order that man's creation may rise.

The long-awaited day of moving to the new building came on Monday, February 18, 1963. Although construction continued on the auditorium and library, the central part of the building was opened and classes were held from that day onward. Mother Leo Vincent addressed the assembled student body in the Science Lecture Hall; she greeted them and immediately got down to the practical business of what courses would be held where on the following day. *The Evening News* for that day began its story: "While the corridors of the new Aquinas Hall of Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh still rang with the carpenter's hammer, 160 students were given their indoctrination briefing today in one of the lecture rooms, used as a classroom for the first time." *The Aquinas News* for April quoted some of the student reactions to the move. Theresa Kennedy, a science major, praised the well-equipped laboratories and the research space, while Maureen Mullane complained of having to go down three flights of stairs for a cigarette break in the student lounge between classes. Laurene Genhart summed up the emotions of most when she said:

"I just could not believe that the day had finally arrived after so many months of waiting. Then, as we walked through the halls of the new building, I hoped that the warmth that had filled the halls of the Villa would become a part of this, our new building. I felt the joy of a dream that was now a reality and the sorrow of departing from the Villa."

*The Evening News* continued its generous coverage of the college's opening with full-page photographs of the exterior and interior building on May 3, 1963, and a feature story on the dedication planned for Sunday, May 5. Preparations had continued throughout that spring with Sr. Mary Consilia speaking in
March to the local Central Labor Council whose president, John J. O'Leary, would soon become the college's first plant manager. Tours for members of the Eastern Orange County Chamber of Commerce and for local professional people were offered, and on March 18, the college announced that for the first time laymen would also be included on the Board of Trustees, with the first meeting of the expanded board taking place on March 15. Mother Leo Vincent also announced that an all-lay associate board of trustees had been formed. In this eventful March, the new college accepted a gift of thirteen paintings from the artist John Gould, a 1984 recipient of the Trustees Award. These paintings still grace many of the rooms on the first floor of Aquinas Hall.

In this month a colorful brochure was published to help publicize the expansion program and to appeal for support. Here the whole plan unfolded for the campus to a total of ten million dollars in construction and upkeep. Included in the projections were dormitories, a gymnasium and swimming pool, as well as expansion of the teacher training center at Bishop Dunn Memorial School. Pietro di Donato, author of *Christ in Concrete*, *The Penitent*, and other books, wrote a glowing preface praising the sisters and their enterprise:

The Sisters of Newburgh have a deep, impressive pedagogical inheritance dating back to the original roots of Santo Domingo de Guzman's Order at Notre Dame de Prouille, France, in 1206. The convent begun in Ratisbon, Bavaria, founded by Saint Dominic's successor, Blessed Jordan of Saxony in 1233, was to send the first Dominican Sisters to the shores of America. From this ancient convent, Newburgh was founded.

Donato also explained the rich significance of the Dominican theologian Thomas Aquinas and the appropriateness of naming the academic building for him:

To Aquinas, the model of philosophers, knowledge was the most excellent form of life. His influence in the high realm of pure, critical thinking has been, and still is, profound. The immortal Dante expresses his intellectual debt to Aquinas in cantos of the Paradiso, wherein Aquinas instructs him as to form and matter, creation and emanation, of knowledge in relation to faith, which characterizes all knowledge as arising from divine inspiration and human intellect.

Significantly, the first event held in the new building took place on March 7, 1963, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. The Convocation, which was held in the Science Lecture Room, brought the student body and faculty together for what the *Aquinas News* said, "will no doubt become one of the more profound traditions of Mount Saint Mary College." On the college seal at the entrance of Aquinas Hall, the motto, *Doce me Veritatem*, sums up the Thomistic ideal: "Teach me the Truth."

The first Academic Investiture program took place on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, with the students donning their black robes for the first time. Caps and gowns, "symbolic of academic pursuit" as the chaplain Fr. Edward Doyle noted, were conferred by Sr. Mary Vincent and Sr. Mary Francis on three seniors, fourteen juniors, three sophomores, and twenty-eight freshmen. Another first, the Presentation of the School Ring, was held on April 9, 1963,

with Fr. Doyle again addressing the students on the meaning of the ceremony. On April 20, a sunny Saturday afternoon, cornerstone ceremonies brought Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Pernicone of New York City to the campus to give his blessing to the two new buildings. Also taking part was James Conforti, the contractor for the buildings. Placed in the cornerstone were the names of the Dominican community and of national and local officials, the college development fund brochure, and copies of The Evening News tracing the three-year history of the buildings.
Full-page advertisements hailing the opening of the new college appeared in the newspapers on Friday, May 3; then on Sunday, May 5, the day of the Formal Dedication Ceremonies finally arrived. More than 1,500 persons attended the ceremonies of blessing and dedication, presided over by Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York City. Archbishop James P. Davis of Puerto Rico, Bishop James Griffiths, chancellor of the college, and fifty-five monsignori were led by the Cardinal to the newly opened theater where Mary Anne Kennedy, student government president, welcomed them. Greetings were offered by Ewald B. Nyquist, deputy commissioner of the university of the State of New York, Fr. John F. Gilson, S.J., representing sister colleges and universities, and William Do Ryan, mayor of Newburgh. The main speaker was Very Rev. Ferrer Smith, O.P., well-known author and scholar. The Sisters' Choir, directed by Sr. Jeanne d' Arc, sang brilliantly throughout the two-hour festivities, and the Cardinal announced that he had given them permission to appear on television.

The "Singing Sisters" had been gaining a reputation throughout the New York area and across the country for their spirited rendition of popular songs. They had already cut a record titled "Joy" that won immediate success and helped in the fund raising for the order. The New York Times on November 7, 1963, carried a picture story, with the headline "Singing Nuns Hit Record Jackpot," about their raising more than $100,000 in little more than a year. The 60-voice chorus was advised and guided by the popular Mitch Miller, and the group appeared on his television show "Sing Along With Mitch" on December 30. The show was an immediate hit and helped boost the sales of the album. Mother Leo Vincent, however, had to turn down further offers for appearances because of the commitment of the sisters to their educational mission. "We're a teaching order, not entertainers," she was reported by The Evening News as saying, and she pointed out that since the sisters were gathered from the entire eastern seaboard and Puerto Rico, getting the group together again would be difficult.

Another major undertaking by the Dominican Sisters at this time involved the formation of "The Hudson Valley International Cultural Centre," which opened at the same time as the new buildings were dedicated. Salvatore Baccaloni, famed basso buffo of the Metropolitan Opera Company, was chosen as chairman and director. Elaborate plans were made to involve celebrities and distinguished performers from around the world and the results were indeed impressive. The Centre would embrace all the performing arts, including music, drama, dance, opera, as well as the visual arts, including painting, sculpture, motion pictures, and commercial art. In its statement of purpose and aims, the Centre planned to sponsor special cultural exchanges to other countries and to bring "performers in every field of artistic
endeavor from around the world" to New York City and Newburgh. In the fall of 1963, a "Workshop" was initiated for the training of young creative people with specialists in different fields under the direction of Maestro Baccaloni.

The inaugural event of the Cultural Centre lived up to its advance publicity: a presentation of the opera *Dialogues of the Carmelites* by Francis Poulenc on Saturday, May 11, 1963. Based on a play by Georges Bernanos, the opera involved a large cast with music by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Claude Monteux. The production was a true community effort with thirty-one area residents involved in the chorus, directed by Antone Aquino of Newburgh Free Academy, and behind the scenes. The set designer for the opera was Tadeusz Gesek, assistant professor of drama at Vassar College, while Joseph P. Monihan, an indefatigable worker on behalf of the college, handled publicity. Distinguished guests ar-

**Page 23**

rived by boat from New York City at West Point and from there they were chauffeured to the theater. The opera, presented in English, received favorable reviews in *The New York Times* and *The Herald Tribune* on the following Monday. The reviewers observed, however, that the lack of depth of the stage and the absence of an orchestra pit limited the impact of the production. The Times noted: "Probably no opera could have been more appropriate to the occasion than 'Dialogues of the Carmelites,' which deals with the martyrdom of a group of nuns during the French Revolution. The performance itself was admirable, and in its quiet beauty the work proved again to be genuinely affecting."

Other activities of the Cultural Centre focused on New York City: The Gilded Cage Ball was held at the Americana Hotel on May 20 for the benefit of the college's development fund, and Fernando Germani, who was first organist at the Vatican for eleven years, presented a series of Bach concerts beginning on April 23 at Lincoln Center. "A Night of Opera with Baccaloni," featuring three singers who had performed in the Poulenc work, Elinor Parker, Myra Genis, and Juanita King, as well as tenors Thomas Hayward and Andre Pousseur, delighted Newburgh audiences on July 13. A Summer Lecture series was also held in the theater, with relevant topics like racial relations, mental health, and urban renewal the subjects of each one of the programs.

The young college had its head in the sky but its feet on the ground as it prepared to greet its new faculty and student body in September 1963. Although Aquinas Hall had been open only a few months, the days were filled with educational and cultural activities of a high order. These were inspiring beginnings for the college on the hill with its sweeping vistas of the soaring Highland mountains and the majestic Hudson River coursing to the sea.

**Page 24**

Chapter III

THE CHANGING SIXTIES

The remaining years of the sixties from 1963 to 1969 were a period of unprecedented changes in religious, social, and political values. The Second Vatican Council, announced by Pope John XXIII in 1960 and continued by Pope Paul VI, brought changes not only to the liturgy but to personal attitudes and lives as well. While the Church adapted to the needs of the world, fewer individuals felt called to the religious life and many religious questioned their vocations and left for secular commitments. At this time, Civil Rights also became an issue. The strain of poverty began to tell on ghetto dwellers and riots broke out, even in Newburgh. The war in Vietnam caused many to question their country's policies and to march in protest. All of these changes, for better or worse, touched the lives of students and faculty at Mount Saint Mary College, even in such trivial ways as dress codes (where miniskirts were allowed but slacks forbidden) and new habits or even secular dress for the nuns.
by the early 1970’s.

Two events mark the end of the era. With the death of John F. Kennedy in November 1963, the ideals of a younger generation received a shock from which it never recovered. In a memorial service held the morning of the President’s burial, the entire faculty and student body met for mass at Guzman Hall, with the new college chaplain, Fr. John A. Fallon, O.P., saying the requiem as “an atmosphere of grief pervaded the campus.” The issue of the *Aquinas News* that described this service reported the other event that marked the end of an era: “Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Opening Witnessed by Pupils.” With the passing of the ferry, the riverfront of Newburgh would lose

*Page 25*

its central importance and rapidly decay until by the end of the decade only weeds and rubble would remain of what was once a thriving commercial and residential area.

Of course, with the new bridge and Interstate 84 came benefits to the community at large, and Mount Saint Mary College shared in the growth of that period. By the end of the decade, the college grounds extended from Gidney Avenue to Elmwood Place and from Powell Avenue to Liberty Street. Although only the Garden Apartments were built after Aquinas Hall, the purchase of Carobene Courts and of housing on Gidney Avenue, as well as property along Liberty Street, added a good deal of walking space and student housing to the college campus. From the thirty-four sisters and eight lay students (a total of forty-two) enrolled in September 1960, the numbers increased in September 1969 to twenty sisters and 667 lay students (fifty-six of whom were men) for a total of 687. The faculty of six religious and one layman increased in that period to eighteen religious and twenty-five lay, all of these figures are for full-time teachers and do not include the number of part-time people involved. Administration increases were relatively modest in this span: from two sisters in 1960 to nine religious and ten lay in 1969.

Some of the landmarks of the college grounds disappeared in this decade. The lovely enclosed garden —where once a greenhouse had stood— next to the Domus Angelorum had to be paved over in 1963 for the road into the academic building, and the stone Gothic gatehouse at the Liberty Street entrance was demolished two years later. Some of the thirty-six varieties of trees —among them beech, ginko, linden, tulip, maple, chestnut, and oak —were cut down for parking space, although the variety of evergreens expanded with memorial trees through the years. In the changing seasons, one can still enjoy the splendid views of the Hudson River and the Mount Beacon range all the way down from Newburgh Bay to Storm King and West Point.

A major step forward for the Mount in this decade was its receiving full accreditation from the Middle States Association in May 1968. Since the college had been granted its absolute state charter only three years previously, this recognition reflected on the unprecedented growth in these crucial beginning years. The evaluation team, chaired by Sr. M. Camillus of Mount Mercy College in Pittsburgh, visited the campus from February 26 to 29, 1967, to evaluate the administration and organizational structure, faculty, academic standards and programming, student body, student affairs, facilities, and financing. Such a complete review was equally beneficial to the young institution, and the recommendations helped to set the pattern for the future. The team noted that the students were “bright, alert and wholesome, well-dressed, well-groomed, speaking with

*Page 26*

freedom their thoughts and aspirations for themselves and having a hard-headed realism which makes them strongly career-oriented, service-oriented.” These characteristics have remained true of the student body throughout the first quarter century of the school’s existence.
Much credit for growth during this important period must go to Sr. Mary Francis McDonald, who became the college's second president in July 1964. Mother Leo Vincent's seemingly inexhaustible energy and optimism were well suited to the first full year of academia in the new Aquinas Hall, but her duties as Superior General of the Newburgh Dominicans made large demands on her time, and the decision to step down as president was clearly necessary. She nevertheless remained on the Board of Trustees, serving as Chairman from 1964 to 1970. In recognition of her services, the college conferred on Mother Leo Vincent Short the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in 1971.

Sr. Mary Francis, a native of Poughkeepsie, was involved with the Mount from its first days in the Villa, teaching classics and acting as its first Dean of Students. A scholar, whose work on the early church fathers had led to several volumes of translation, she expanded the faculty and the Board of Trustees; she also supervised changes in the core requirements and in the curriculum. She helped sponsor numerous ecumenical lectures, especially in the field of Judeo-Christian studies. As president, she met frequently with faculty and students in an ambiance that echoed the intimacy of the early days in the Villa.

Sr. Mary Vincent Ralph continued as Academic Dean until her retirement in July 1966; her sure guidance and kindness will be remembered by all who knew her. She was named Dean Emerita after retiring, and she was the recipient of the first honorary degree from the college in 1967. The award of Ralph Scholars for undergraduates is named in her honor. Her death on July 19, 1968, marked an end to a lifetime of dedication to the religious and educational ideals taught by St. Dominic.
Among the arriving new faculty in September 1963 was Dr. Roland M. Whittaker, former head of the Department of Chemistry at Queens College. The author of numerous texts and articles in his field, Dr. Whittaker helped establish the area of science as one of the strengths of the new college. His untiring attention to the details of faculty duties and his experience as an administrator were also of immense help to the practical running of the institution. In addition to acting as Professor of Chemistry and chairman of the department from 1963-68, he was Assistant to the President from 1964-66 and successor to Sr. Mary Vincent as Academic Dean from 1966-68. He played a unique role in securing accreditation and in fostering the intellectual growth of the Mount. At the testimonial dinner given him on May 1, 1968, upon his retirement, he was awarded the first Faculty Award. After serving on the Board of Trustees for several years, Dr. Whittaker returned to the college as its Provost to assist in the period of transition between presidents, when Sr. Mary Francis was elected Superior General in 1971 and a new presidential search had to be undertaken. Dr. Whittaker continued on the Board of Trustees at the time, actively advising the operation of the school as Dean Emeritus. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in 1968. In 1974, the Domus Angelorum was renamed Whittaker Hall in his honor.
Other new faculty members in 1963 were Dr. Richard Peckham, Associate Professor of Biology with a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame, and Dr. James F. Cotter, Associate Professor of English with a doctorate from Fordham University. Dr. Hedwig Just joined the History Department where Sr. Assumpta Mazza of the Presentation Order had already been teaching for several years. Dr. Just, who obtained her degree from the University of Berlin, soon formed a History Club and along with the vivacious Sr. Assumpta kept students politically aware during the changing decade. Also on the faculty were Carol Campana in the area of psychology, Loretta Denner in English, and Alfred Vecchio in history. Rosemary Boccalatte in chemistry and Hannah Wallace in sociology dated their arrival to the college back to the Villa. Sr. Mary Charles Boyle began her career of dedication to the Mount at this time; as Sr. Agnes she is currently Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Marian Hosford, with a doctorate from Teachers College of Columbia University, headed the Nursing Department that had expanded with the closing of St. Luke’s Hospital nurses training program in 1963. In March 1964, Mother Leo Vincent signed a contract with Carl F. Demo, chief administrator of St. Luke’s, designating the hospital as the principal clinical facility for new nursing programs scheduled to open at the college in September. Sr. M. James Elizabeth DeBoer, the future Sr. Leona and mainspring of the successful nursing major at the Mount, was at the time teaching in the department with Sr. Ellen Eugene Bohny.

On the faculty at this time also were Sr. M. Grace Imelda Blanchard, in the areas of English and education, and Mrs. Mary Kelly O’Donnell, supervisor of the elementary student teachers. Lucian Wemick taught mathematics in 1964 and Ruth Chaya and Mary Hesselgrave joined the department in 1969. Dr. George Zuckerman, who for forty years had served as Superintendent of New York City’s Child Welfare Division, introduced the special education program at the Mount in September 1964. His untimely death in May of the following year deprived the college of one of its most vigorous academic leaders; his firm direction in the first year of the program provided it with the impetus that has made the teaching of those who work with handicapped children a major achievement and contribution of the college. James P. Pratt, an assistant professor in education, came to the Mount in 1965 and was a dedicated teacher until his death in December 1971. That September Fr. Michael J. Gilleece began his whole-hearted work for the college as a lecturer in theology and philosophy. Sally Magagna also started her teaching career at this time, and Eileen Callahan came to the campus as an assistant to the Dean of Students, Sr. Mary...
James (Beth) McCormick, who now serves on the Board of Trustees. Miss Callahan also worked as Director of Guidance and Placement and in 1969 became Dean of Students. In 1969, William McDonough brought his cheerful commitment to the Mount as the Director of Career Planning. Sr. Estelle Marie McKeever, now on the library staff, was a lecturer in classical languages in 1965.

Other names that started to appear in the college catalogs include: In 1966, William Mclvor, special education; Irene Walsh and Richard Campion, English; Sr. Marie Jordan (Kathryn) Lindemann and Sr. Michael Joseph jAnn) Stankiewicz, philosophy; Robin Ader, art; Sr. M. James Cecilia (Joan! Coffey, registrar and French instructor (now on the Board of Trustees); Richard C. Lang, sociology; Sr. Catherine Lillis, P.B.V.M., psychology; Sr. Catherine Westcott, education; and Sr. Anita Rosaire Fay, history; in 1967, Sr. Maris Stella Kirkpatrick, education; Sr. John Maura Longshore, Spanish; Dr. Edith Lessor, chemistry; Fr. Armand Padula, O.F.M., theology; Sr. M. Yvonne Milroy, art; and Sr. Francis Joseph Egan, library. Fr. Joseph McTigue, O.P., came in 1968 to the theology department where he served for six years until his appointment as the Director of the Center for Community and Educational Services in 1974; he

remained there until his death in 1981. Sr. Ann Sakac, currently President of the college, arrived in September 1969 as a member of the English department and Assistant Dean of Students. The size of the administrative staff remained relatively modest, but familiar names begin to appear. Sr. Mary Immaculate McLaughlin, director of development; Sr. Rose Therese Gorman, treasurer; O.J. Kukielski ("Mr. K"!), plant manager and, later, business manager; and Jean Marie Tuthill, assistant to and, later associate, registrar, are among those listed in the 1965-66 Mount catalog. In 1968, Sr. Teresa Paul Heinke assumed the important role of director of admission; she still serves on the Board of Trustees. Dr. David R. Shapiro, M.D., came to the campus as its physician, an office that he fulfilled faithfully for the next dozen years and that, since his death, is carried on by his son Stephen Shapiro. In 1969, Albert O. Kingsley arrived to take on the critical duties of treasurer; he is still assisting the college as a member of its Board of Trustees. Sr. Dorothea Darling, student adviser since 1966, took over as registrar in 1969 and left the position in 1985 with a record of distinguished service to the college.

Student life changed its focus during these few years from proms to protest, from personal concerns to public involvement. The years 1963-1967 featured numerous fashion shows with the Mount women as models, but the attention shifts and climaxes with the October 15, 1969, National Vietnam Moratorium Day that was marked by meetings and discussions organized by sociology teacher Peter Brooks. Peace Corps interviews took place on campus, and Kathleen Thompson of the class of 1969 spent two years on tour in the Philippines. In April 1965, Lois Connell, Bobbie Lancaster, and Connie Burke were the first to visit Appalachia, in a program sponsored by the National Federation of Catholic College Students that was to involve many Mount students in working with and for the poor. Richard Lang’s Lander Street project, a plan to renovate a substandard section of Newburgh, got under way in 1968 and afforded students the chance of helping families in the immediate environment. Horizons Unlimited, a tutorial program for disadvantaged children in the Beacon area, began in the fall of 1964. In 1966, Sr. Mary Immaculate and Miss Callahan started College Bound for assisting high-school girls in preparing skills for college. A full-page advertisement in Time magazine for the college in 1968 appealed to women who were as concerned about people as they were about studies.

In 1963-64 the Aquinas News developed a more news-conscious and professional look under the editorship of Mary Jo Ahern. The college Student Government Association began its first year of operation; standing committees were formed that would later evolve into the four divisions (Activities, Commuters, Resident Living, and Development and Public Relations) of the Student Affairs Council. Elections were held in May 1964, with Kathryn Schreiber elected president and Judy Ringwood vice president. The tradition of electioneering, campaigning, voting and balloting
began with a bang and has remained one of the big moments of the spring semester ever since. Another
tradition, of a social kind, Hundredth Night also
enjoyed its first celebration on Mardi Gras of 1964. Parents Weekend began in the late sixties and has
become one of the major events of the school year. Sr. Joan Roberta Woods, through contact with the
early graduates, established the foundations of the Alumni Association.

The Hudson Valley International Cultural Centre in 1963-64, directed by Salvatore Baccaloni, held
workshops and staged events of opera, ballet, recitals, and Shakespeare on a monthly basis. The
ambitious endeavor only proved, however, that the more noble the cultural ideal the harsher the financial
realities. Sr. Mary Consilia and, then, Sr. Mary Immaculate took over the directorship of the Centre and it
was renamed simply, "The Cultural Centre of Mount Saint
Mary College." Under the watchful and enthusiastic direction of Irene Walsh Nunnari since 1968, with the
assistance of Florence Price since 1973, the Centre continues each season to offer highly regarded
professional entertainment from classical concerts to popular musicals. The Cultural Guild was formed in
1964; the leadership of Richard Herbert and the dedication of members like Sol Nemeroff, who was later
chairman, helped the Centre through some difficult
decisions of the sixties. The Guild proved again that community support for the college was available
when it was needed.

*The Evening News* maintained its local coverage of the Mount throughout the rest of the decade. The
building and opening of the Garden Apartments in 1964 received only slightly less attention than did
Aquinas Hall. The Mastromarino Company of Haverstraw constructed the building at a cost of $200,000
with facilities for seventy-four students. On January 31, 1967, the college purchased Carobene Courts
Apartments for $1.2 million dollars; as College Court, the
apartments could house an additional 450 students.

*The Evening News* followed the appearance on campus of the controversial Fr. Philip Berrigan, then an
English professor at Epiphany College in New Windsor, and singer Pete Seeger of Beacon and took a
dim view of their possibly bad influence on the innocent undergraduates. Some of the editorial comments
and articles of the late
sixties reflected a concern that the local liberal arts college not fall prey to outside influences and
suspected agitators.

As expressed in the *Aquinas News*, however, the campus was hard-

*Page 32*

ly a hotbed of insurrection. Although there were movements to liberalize dormitory rules, increase student
participation on faculty committees, and change regulations concerning dress and behavior, editor Mary
Anne McEnery in the January 6, 1969, issue asked in a headline under a picture of an open coffin: "Have
Mount Saint Mary Activities Succumbed to Student Apathy?" Actually, the previous spring three Mount
students, Nancy Gekakis, Patricia Tompkins, and Patricia Marro, had made Evening News headlines by
calling a meeting between the City Council and the black community to discuss improving
communications and relations. An editorial com-
mended them for their initiative. Faculty, religious and lay, and students took part in a civil rights march
through the streets of Newburgh in April 1968.

Two areas that generated student excitement were college dramatics and the basketball team. The first
production, directed by resourceful Sr. Joan Roberta, was an appropriate choice, *The Miracle Worker*,
since it had been the first Broadway drama attended by Mount students in 1961. The play, produced in
April 1966, starred Diana di Grandi, Kathy Lucy, and Jo-Ann Hillman. The next year the Roblore Players,
as they now dubbed themselves, performed Riders to the Sea in the fall and *The Heiress* in the spring.
Subsequent productions included Shaw on Shaw, Shakespeare on Shakespeare, and Three Faces of
Comedy, with faculty members Richard Campion and Fr. John Fallon joining the student players.
The first three seasons from 1960 to 1963 were win less for the college athletes. In fact, in the final loss in the seven games of the 1963 season, the cheerleaders played the last quarter and did as well as the varsity. The headline of the April 1963 Aquinas News honestly declared: "Mount Completes Third Season--High Spirits, Low Scores Result." Nevertheless, the perseverance of the players and the work of coach Lorraine Santacroce paid off the following year when the March 1964 Aquinas News was able to crow: "First Basketball Win Recorded." It must have been one of the lowest scoring games on record because the Mount defeated Orange County Community College 13-11- in overtime! Half the points were scored by Mary Ellen Yablonsky. The team then went on to beat Ladycliff College 31-19, with Mimi Brickhouse hitting for 15 points. Although the team lost its remaining four games, the pattern of victory had been established for future teams to emulate.

On the academic side, the first awards for scholarly achievement were made in the fall of 1968 to students, as Aquinas Scholars for seniors and juniors, and Ralph Scholars for sophomores. The Aquinas Scholars were Alissa Capasso, Lynn Bertholf, Linda Oppermann, and Mary Raszcewski; the Ralph Scholars were Mary Ann Budny, Sr. Ann Jennifer Erhard, Linda Moran, Sharon Rowan, and Maureen Whelan. Joan Kennedy, Gail Overbaugh, Kathleen Reineke, and other members of the class of 1967 were the first graduates to have completed their education entirely within the confines of Aquinas Hall. One of the campus leaders of this generation was Mary Totonelly, student government president for the class of 1968; she did much to modernize the campus regulations and offered an example of commitment to others. Joan Miller, president in 1969, still contributes to the growth of the Mount by her teaching on the education faculty.

Mount Saint Mary College had weathered the changes of the sixties and looked forward to the promises of the critical seventies. There were fresh beginnings for the college yet to undertake and new challenges still to face.

---

Page 33

Aquinas Scholars were Alissa Capasso, Lynn Bertholf, Linda Oppermann, and Mary Raszcewski; the Ralph Scholars were Mary Ann Budny, Sr. Ann Jennifer Erhard, Linda Moran, Sharon Rowan, and Maureen Whelan. Joan Kennedy, Gail Overbaugh, Kathleen Reineke, and other members of the class of 1967 were the first graduates to have completed their education entirely within the confines of Aquinas Hall. One of the campus leaders of this generation was Mary Totonelly, student government president for the class of 1968; she did much to modernize the campus regulations and offered an example of commitment to others. Joan Miller, president in 1969, still contributes to the growth of the Mount by her teaching on the education faculty.

Mount Saint Mary College had weathered the changes of the sixties and looked forward to the promises of the critical seventies. There were fresh beginnings for the college yet to undertake and new challenges still to face.

Page 34

Chapter IV

THE CRITICAL SEVENTIES

The tidings for the beginning of the decade were ominous for the college. The first public hint came in the April 28, 1970, issue of The Evening News: Mt. St. Mary Faces Financial Difficulties. Allen J. Indzonka, soon to be chairman of the Board of Trustees in place of Mother Leo Vincent, asked for the support of the community, already reeling from the loss of Stewart Air Force Base and a declining local economy. The June 13 Evening News editorial entitled, "College Peril," praised the college's contribution to the City of Newburgh and went on to quote Sr. Mary Francis as telling the Newburgh Kiwanis Club that "the college is in serious financial straits and the Sisters of St. Dominic no longer can carry the annual debt burden, which has been running about $200,000 a year." A deficit of $273,000 had been projected for the coming academic term. Matters sounded even worse when the newspaper headlined a September 15 story: Fund Shortage Has Future of Mount in Doubt. The article stated that community help was urgently needed.

A drive, with the slogan "A Million for the Mount" immediately rallied area support, headed by co-chairmen Lewis A. Gaines, William G. Dowd, and Dr. Theodore Proper. The public relations director of the college, Edward Leavens, announced that "an intensive fund drive will be launched this fall." Once again, The Evening News publicized every aspect of the campaign and duly reported every major donation, including its own gift of $15,000 to send the drive over the $100,000 mark. Unlike the 1960 drive when a goal of one million dollars was reached in a short two months, the tightened economy and realities of the year 1970 made fund raising difficult;
the drive fell far short of its goal, reaching about $160,000 by the end of the year before petering out. Although the campaign failed to generate its projected income, prospects took on a bright look at the beginning of the following year. *The Evening News* for January 21, 1971, proclaimed: “Mount's Future Brighter.” Projected tuition increases and a State Education Department analysis forecasting a five-year period of growth, as well as increased enrollment promised for the coming fall semester, contributed to this re-born optimism. In September, John V. Lahey was appointed director of development, and fund raising continued in the form of phonathons, auctions, and other sponsored events.

The increased help from federal and state sources, however, made the real difference in facing the financial crises of the seventies. Congressman John Dow announced in May 1972, for example, that Educational Opportunity Grants to 129 Mount students totaled $84,620, the largest amount of any college in the Mid-Hudson area. From 1970 on, the Higher Education Opportunity Program has been another mainstay for many attending the college. In December 1973, the Mount was ruled eligible for state aid in the form of Bundy money, and this aid has continued to help keep the college financially secure while giving direct assistance to students.

The debate surrounding the terms of the Bundy funds for secular rather than religiously based institutions was frequently the subject for verbal and written exchanges on the nature of the Mount as a private college originally begun by the Dominican Sisters. When at first the college failed to qualify for the funds, an editorial in the college paper on April 17, 1970, headed *Financial Problem At the Mount*, responded:

> Why is Mount Saint Mary College so distinctively Catholic? It appears the state bases our Catholicism upon the rather superficial aspects of required theology credits and a religious as president. If this is Catholicism in the eyes of state officials, perhaps the fight to remain Catholic is not worth winning.

The editorial went on to point out that the college shows its religious commitment in its attention to the problems of the community and its contribution to "the intellectual fiber of society." It concluded: "Perhaps State aid would be a boost and not a hindrance to Catholicism."

Central to the new image of the Mount was the appointment of its first lay president in March 1972. In April of the previous year, like her predecessor, Sr. Mary Francis had been elected superior general of the Newburgh-based order. After a year's search, during which
she still served as president with Dr. Roland W. T. O'Hara was chosen to head the institution in the critical period ahead. Dr. O'Hara was well qualified both by education and experience, holding academic degrees from New York University and Georgetown University in the field of law. He had been and associate dean at the University of Connecticut Law School and, for five previous years, was the chief academic and administrative head of the University of Connecticut's Southeastern Campus. In his four years at the Mount, Dr. O'Hara instituted the Friday-Saturday College and the Center for Community and Educational Services, introduced a business administration program, and implemented the Resident Living Plan that helped resolve some of the problems students felt in regard to the growing search for freedom in their lifestyle. His inauguration on September 28, 1972, was an occasion of splendid ceremony and a symbol of the changing character of the college.

A dramatic instance of that change in student attitudes may be found in the college paper. The last issue of the Aquinas News was in November 1969; then an entirely new paper, Mountage, came out in February 1970. Its lead article boldly declared: On Women's Liberation, and it was "Dedicated to the courageous women at Mount Saint Mary College." Excerpts quoting Fr. Michael Gilleece reviewed the causes of feminine suppression and the impact of the current women's movement on overcoming stereotypes of femininity. The article by Susan L. McClelland ended: "My sisters-in-cause and I are trying to establish a new sense of self-esteem for womanhood." The Equal Rights Amendment in 1974 would later become a subject for school discussion and support. Throughout the decade, a need for liberation from traditional restrictions, like curfews and required courses in the curriculum, together with an increased concern for practical questions like campus security, defined the direction of the seventies generation and their "new sense of self-esteem."

Since the spring semester of 1968, when Frank Nocilla found himself the only male on the newly co-ed campus, to the modest number of fifty-eight men among the 697 students enrolled in the fall of 1970, the question of masculine presence on campus was another issue at the Mount. Initial reactions, as reported in the Aquinas News ranged from "I think it's crummy" to "It's wonderful. I know it will give me strength to go on." The issue of a men's dormitory in College Court dragged on through the decade, with the male enrollment increasing to 158 in 1979. That year the total numbers hit 1,072 full- and part-time students. Except for a dip in the fall of 1972, enrollment increased throughout the seventies, so the decision to go co-ed seems to have benefited the college. The closing of Our Lady of Hope College, a seminary for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Josephites in Balmville, the returning of adults to college, and the
High School Bridge Program also brought new students with fresh outlooks and academic backgrounds to the campus.

On May 6, 1970, a group of 150 students marched through the streets of Newburgh in a quiet "sympathy walk" in memory of the four students killed at Kent State University in Ohio. A call for a protest moratorium received mixed reactions at a session of the students, conducted by Student Government President Valerie Arena. A month before, on April 22, an Environmental Moratorium had met with more success, but it was well-organized and purposeful with speakers and panel discussions. That spring the Black Student Union was formed to promote greater awareness on the campus; it has continued to contribute to the college's cultural and social growth by sponsoring, for example, the appearance of Martin Luther King's daughter, Yvonne King in 1983. These events and organizations helped define the students' sense of themselves and the wider world that awaited them.

In the same month as the inauguration of Dr. O'Hara, another shift in student mores is seen in the publication of another newly named college paper, *The Mount Myriad*. Although its life span was not much longer than *Mountage* (1970-1972), *The Mount Myriad* in its first year of publication (October 1972-May 1973) printed a record number of nineteen issues. Under the guidance of editor Giselle Alarie and feature writer Chris Chick, every aspect of student life came under scrutiny. Letters to the Editor flourished, with people debating the planned Student Center (never built) and Jack Boyce arguing that the $250,000 would be better spent in buying up houses on Powell Avenue. Articles on the Higher Education Opportunity Program, core requirement changes, and new course offerings, reviews of movies by Richard Campion, spiritual reflections by Fr. Michael Gilleece, interviews with faculty and students by a "Roving Reporter," and even poetry combined to make this year and the next, when fourteen issues appeared, a phenomenal period of self-awareness through cooperative communication. The entire December 1, 1972, issue was given to the printing of the Geen Report that President O'Hara and the Board of Trustees had initiated to study academic structures and curriculum.

One of the features of *The Mount Myriad* was its focus on "People at the Mount," with stories on Mrs. Margarete Kaufman, secretary to Mr. K. since 1967; Miss Marie Bennett, library assistant from 1962 to the present; Mrs. Anne Eggleston, head bookkeeper in the treasurer's office; and Charlie Chruma, the ever-present and all-purpose helping hand who supplied physical maintenance, audio-visual aid, and backstage support from 1965 until his retirement in 1976. Another helping hand, Gil Lester, who came to the campus in 1964, still contributes his carpentry skills.

Two shows presented that year were featured in the *Myriad*. The student production, *Hello Dolly*, directed by Louis Fletcher and Irene Walsh was presented on November 17-19, 1972, and starred the talented Susan Wynne, a senior English major; the beautiful spectacle, accompanied by members of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, was truly memorable. The spring brought the great mime Marcel Marceau to Aquinas Theatre on April 9 for another unforgettable evening. Mr. Fletcher also directed the Glee Club from this time, keeping up the vigorous schedule and maintaining the high standards set by Sr. Jeanne d'Arc in the previous decade.

*The Mount Myriad* sustained its spirited coverage of campus people and events through 1975. Under the editorship of Jennie Simon, a kaleidoscope of material, exchanges, faculty and staff reports, letters, and book reviews dazzles the reader. Cynthia Orr, creative arts editor, provided interesting observations, while Diane Whitaker pursued hot stories -like stolen books from the library. One instructive article on October 24, 1975, dealt with faculty-student interactions, with Sandra Van Dyke, Edith Lessor, and Sr. Grace Imelda Blanchard giving their views which, in turn, were reviewed by students Tom McCormick and Cyndy Orr. One sad note was sounded: An "In Memoriam" piece for Dr. Hedwig Just in the September 19, 1975, issue. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her intelligence and integrity.

Among faculty members whose names begin to appear in the cata-
Logs of this time are the following: 1970-72, Anne T. Champlin, Judy Gallagher, Garnet C. McGrath, and Mary Louise Miller, nursing; Margaret Dames and Sr. Mary Janice Dionne, French and, later, Friday-Saturday College directors; Dr. Joan M. Daisey, chemistry; Beverly Cohen, physics; Dr. Patrick J. DeLuca, biology; Sr. Regina Marie Hancock, library; 1972-73, Sr. Nancy Mehlem, education; 1973-74, Sr. Jean Rosaire Bedotto and Sr. Frances Berski, education; Janet Corso Rem snyder, philosophy; Helen H. Gegenwarth, physics; David Johnson and Dr. Judith Rosner, sociology; Joseph M. Katz and Dr. Joan Miller, psychology and education; Sharon Kuusisto, Spanish; Phyllis McLaren, Marjorie Cook, Ruth Tappen, Joyce Smyrski, and Sandra Van Dyke, nursing; Roberta S. Singer, library; Eleanor Perreca, physical education; 1975-76, Sr. Sylvia Bielen, art; Sr. Lorelle Elcock and Sr. Patricia Sullivan, mathematics; Dr. Charles B. Mitchell and Fr. Donald Timone, religious studies; Dr. William Lahar, chemistry; Sheila Nugent, education; Doris Parrish, nursing; Dr. John T. Reilly, history and political science; Dr. Iris J. Turkenkopf, biology; Dr. Donald Wheeler, physics; 1976-77, Linda D. Barnes and Donna Demarest, nursing; Sr. Patricia Peters, education and, later, HEOP director; Thomas Sarro, biology; 1977-78, Dr. Robert Andreen, physics; Dr. Ronald Bayer, chemistry; Dr. Paul Schwartz, education; Maureen Markel, English; Dr. Karen Eberle McCarthy, Spanish; 1978-79, Dr. Walter Winton and Dr. Edward Bewayo, business; Patricia Bailey, nursing; 1979-80, Dr. Stephen Hamby, psychology; JudiJaffe, Barbara Piscopo, and Sheila Warren, nursing.

Among the administrative staff in this period, mention must be made of Michael B. O'Neil who came to the Mount as Dean of students in 1972. He was followed in 1975 by Dr. Ernest R. Mills, III, who is currently Director of Development. Lucille Bowser directed institutional development from 1974-1978, and was followed by Dr. John A. D' Ambrosio. James Daly played a crucial role in admissions as its director from 1974 to 1977; James Sagona replaced him from 1977-79. Gayla Hoffman, Helen Traub, and Ellen Willoughby successively spanned the decade in the expanding area of public information. In 1975, Helen Macy patiently started to answer our switch-board calls.

The size of the full- and part-time faculty and staff doubled in the decade to more than 180 persons in 1979. The Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Allen J. Indzonka since 1970, played an essential part in this growth, and at the end of his term in 1978 the college recognized him for his services by granting him an honorary doctorate. George F. Stradar, Jr., replaced Mr. Indzonka in 1978 and guided the board through the important period that followed.

In 1974, the board gave its first Trustees Award to Sr. Marie Gene-

Page 40

vieve Love who from 1969 to 1974 had served as Academic Dean, and in 1972, before the appointment of Dr. O' Hara, as Provost of the college. She has continued to offer her dynamic contributions to the planning and study of the Mount by directing its institutional research since 1975. Sr. Agnes Boyle assumed the duties of the Academic Dean's office in July 1974 and she, too, has continued to offer energetic and practical direction for the academic programs on campus. In 1984, she assumed the title of Vice President for Academic Affairs.
In August 1976, Sr. Ann Sakac was designated Acting President on the departure of Dr. William O’Hara and, in the spring of the following year, she was appointed President. The Bicentennial year was a busy one for the college as it prepared for a review of its Middle States Accreditation. At the same time, the National League of Nursing and the New York State Education Department also coordinated their review of the college’s programs. In February 1977, the team of educators conducted their visitation and approved reaccreditation later in the spring. Sr. Agnes led a steering committee that produced a straightforward and candid report which, since that time, has been a model of self-study reviews for its detail and completeness.

The Bicentennial year also brought several celebrities to the campus: Helen Hayes was the commencement speaker in May, and Bob Hope gave a benefit performance on December 3 and received a Trustees Medal on that occasion. Ever-reliable Sr. Yvonne Milroy was instrumental in having the comedian appear. That evening, Hope generously donated $10,000 to the college. However, the financial needs that were accelerating in this decade through inflation and energy costs had also to be met from increased assistance of state and federal funding. New York State’s Tuition Assistance Program, as well as Bundy money, has aided the institution since 1974, while federal Title III has added considerably to the budget; for example, the college received a $100,000 Title III grant for 1978-79, while the Division of Nursing was approved for a grant of $220,000 to support the development of extension centers from 1979 to 1982. In 1978, the business major was introduced and it immediately began with an enrollment of eighty-three students, far more than had been projected. A medical technology program, started in 1975, also began to develop in these years.

A feature of cooperation between the college and city communities in this period was the "Courses by Newspaper" that ran from 1973 to 1975 in The Evening News and covered topics of intellectual interest and American history. People could use the weekly readings as assignments for college credit at the Mount. Twenty essays were published, beginning with "America and the Future of Man" by David Bell of Harvard University in the October 18, 1973, issue. Dr. James Cotter was the college coordinator of this worthwhile undertaking. The college and the newspaper both benefited the public by presenting high-caliber ideas in an innovative way.

Another unusual way of acquiring credit, through life experience, was introduced in September 1978. Margaret Dames, the enthusiastic director of the Fri-Sat program, helped create this practical means of attracting mature individuals to the college. In a story, dated December 31, 1978, The Evening News
picted Ted Pawlowski making his presentation to the committee. Up to thirty credits, toward the 120 needed for a degree, could be granted, Mrs. Dames was quoted as saying, and she noted that the credit award program had taken more than four years to develop.

Another significant development of this decade was in the growth of library holdings. Since the chilly February 1963 day when faculty and students moved more than 7,000 books from the Villa to the newly opened Curtin Memorial Library, the collection grew from 48,600 in 1970 to 78,500 in 1980 and 86,500 today. Earlier gifts by Christian A. Zabriskie had helped increase library acquisitions, while the Joseph P. Monihan collection of rare books on local history added sources in a needed area of study. Periodicals increased from 132 in 1960 to 485 in 1970, 525 in 1980 and 620 in 1985. The library obtained its first journals on microfilm in 1972, and this important means of increasing the collection has shown a dramatic growth: in 1979 the library contained more than 8,000 items in microform which have increased to 12,500 today. From the origin of the college

Page 42

to 1967, Sr. Bernard Joseph industriously supervised these purchases and, as Director Emerita from 1968, she continued to watch over the library's growth until her death in 1980. Sr. Francis Joseph served as its gracious director from 1967 to 1978, when Sr. Estelle Marie succeeded her. Mrs. Loraine Norton, who came to the college in 1964, almost matches Miss Bennett in length of devoted service.

Many of the dramatic changes at the Mount seem to have coincided with a name change in the college paper. Just as The Mount Myriad came with Dr. O'Hara, so it mysteriously ceased publication in December 1976, and it was titled The Current. Boldly but rather belatedly it headlined: "O'Hara Resigns -Sr. Ann Sakac Takes Over." The first issue attributed "Editing, Layout, Typing, and Design" to John Stanich who soon had help from Jean Sharkey in the sixteen numbers that followed in 1976-77. The paper questioned whether Mount students could afford the $50 and $100 seats for the Bob Hope performance, but in the next issue reported that a reduced price tag of $25 was available. Articles on Susan Ziegler, director of counseling, and on Bill McDonough's retirement "after eight years of diligence and hard work," Dick Campion's movie reviews, and poetry selections made up some of the many interesting items of the year. Also highlighted were the student production of Camelot and the commencement speaker, Mary Anne Krupsak, Lieutenant Governor of New York.

The 1977-78 semesters were another banner year for The Current, its twenty issues (eight in fall and twelve in spring) smashing the previous record of the 1972-73 Mount Myriad. Editor Jean Sharkey, assisted by Carmel DeRosa and Regina McEnery and a large news staff, covered every aspect of college life, from Jerry Lewis' December 1977 performance and outspoken press conference at the Mount to pages of verse in the Christmas issue. Michael Paff wrote a sensitive appreciation of Sr. Assumpta while Theresa Licata described the poetry writing of security guard Ed Presutti. The Mount version of Fiddler on the Roof received enthusiastic attention. Even the decision to require the doctorate for tenure came up for a thorough airing. Jean Sharkey continued as editor for the fall of 1978 and Regina McEnery began editing in the spring of 1979, a position she retained the following fall. The 1978-79 publication of The Current with its seventeen issues was yet another prolific outburst of the college paper. Stories like the building of the greenhouse by Dr. Richard Peckham and Dr. Patrick DeLuca, the introduction of the interdisciplinary major, and the vandalizing of the Garden Apartments during Christmas vacation demonstrated a nose for hard news and important questions. "Trogs Temper," William H. Grignon's provocative reflections on the passing scene, and the annual "April Fool" issue

Page 43

made their appearance at this time.

The decade concluded on a note of loss. In the September 21, 1979, issue of The Current, there is an appreciation by Diane Corrado of Fr. Michael Gilleece who had died on August 2 at the age of 48. She
wrote: "In the years that he was involved at the Mount, he managed to touch, broaden, and enlighten hundreds of people. He served not only as the College Chaplain, but also as teacher, philosopher, confidant; just as importantly, he was a faithful and trusting friend." The chapel that he had helped to open in 1974 in Witter Hall was renamed in his honor. Like James Pratt, remembered with an award by the Education Department, and Dr. Hedwig Just, memorialized by a scholarship from the Teaching Faculty Association, Fr. Michael J. Gilleece is honored by a memorial award, as well as by an Alumni Association scholarship in his name, at the college he joined in 1965. In its obituary, The Times Herald-Record of Middletown quoted a typical observation by this perceptive priest. At the annual service club luncheon at the college, Fr. Gilleece told a Thanksgiving audience: 'Let's be thankful for nothing, gratitude is greatness.'

For Mount Saint Mary College this cheerful colleague wished only greatness. The seventies brought the college closer to this ideal, and the challenge of the eighties would mean measuring up to that ideal and accepting the price of achieving it. A Campus Ministry team was established to take Fr. Gilleece's place as chaplain, for as Diane Corrado noted: 'It is taking several people to perform the tasks that one unique man attempted and accomplished.' The effort was symbolic of what the college community, still in its beginnings, had yet to accomplish and the greatness that its gratitude had yet to achieve. Teamwork, both spiritual and academic, continued to be the means of accomplishing the task. Father Gilleece would have agreed.

**Page 44**

Chapter V

THE CHALLENGE OF THE EIGHTIES

In her annual report to the trustees of the college for 1980-81, Sr. Ann Sakac observed that higher education, after a rather lengthy period of growth, was entering what could become "a challenging, difficult, and painful period of contraction." Two factors, she noted, contributed to this problem: the decline in numbers of students reaching the traditional college age, and the rising costs of energy and inflation that outpaced tuition and other sources of revenue for colleges.

An immediate sign of the decline in the youthful population and those increased costs was the closing of Mount Saint Mary Academy in 1979 after more than half a century of educational excellence that had helped spread its reputation far beyond Newburgh. Then, in April 1980, Ladycliff College announced that it would not re-open in the fall. Within a year, Harriman College, a two-year private college, also ceased operations. The Mount became the only four-year college in Orange County. In an editorial on the "Closing of Ladycliff," The Evening News for April 2~, 1980, hit an optimistic note in regard to the Mount: "Founded 20 years ago, the college is expected to ride out the
hurricane and remain an integral part of the community.” The reason for this good news, the editorial writer stated, was that the Mount had changed with the times and added excellent programs to its curriculum.

These new programs developed rapidly under the leadership of the President, Sr. Ann Sakac, and the Academic Dean, Sr. Agnes Boyle. The college's first master's degree program was introduced in 1984, leading to a Master of Science in Special Education. Sr. Frances Berski, chairperson of the Division of Education, and the education faculty had spent two years researching and developing the proposal, testing its feasibility and designing the courses. Dr. Frances Connor, a college trustee and chairperson of the graduate program in special education at Teachers College of Columbia University, offered encouragement and guidance.

In January 1982, a new major in Communication Arts was instituted, with concentrations in the areas of public relations, theater, mass media, and combined communication arts. Mrs. Irene Walsh Nunnari, chairperson of English and Communication Arts, was the moving force behind this exciting and innovative program that has already attracted a large number of students and promises to be one of the academic strengths of the college. Dr. George Perry of Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, served as a well-informed and deeply involved consultant in winning approval for this broad program from the State Regents in Albany.

The evergrowing use of computers has seen an equally intense interest in the student population for courses and a major in computer science. Sr. Marie Genevieve, seeing the need for the college's use of its own computer system and aided by Title III funds, helped set up

Data Processing Center
the data processing center. Joanne Pucino, who for five years had served as director of alumni affairs, became manager of the center in 1980. In 1983, the major in Computer Science received state accreditation, and the program immediately attracted student attention, with twenty-four students enrolled in 1984-85, its first full year of operation. Dr. Robert Andreen, formerly in the physics department, and Sr. Pat Sullivan, head of the mathematics department, were instrumental in forming the proposal and putting it into action. Dr. Andreen also set up the Intel Distributive Data Processing Network that allows twenty-six workstations for student use in the expanded computer center.

Another important major, Hispanic Studies, was approved by the New York State Education Department and introduced in 1983. It offered field experience and foreign travel as well as emphasizing language and culture. Dr. Karen Eberle McCarthy and Sr. Janice Dionne, both of the modern language department, helped make the program a reality. The language laboratory, originally set up by Sr. Marie Therese, once again proved its usefulness and the foresight of Ma Soeur. Her death in August 1984, at the age of 86, deprived the college of one of its most ardent supporters, and the new major is a testimony to her practical approach to language skills.

Still another major was approved in 1984 as part of the growing Business Division of the college. The Accounting major was designed to give training in a fundamental skill necessary for an understanding of business and for specialization in the field. Dr. William M. Mooney, Richard J. Coughlin, C.P.A., and Frederick H. Young, M.B.A., all worked to make this major an additional plus in the Mount's preparation of its students for their careers in marketing, finance, and business management.

Within the area of the Interdisciplinary Studies program, a new major in International Studies has also been introduced, drawing upon existing majors in business, history and political science, and Hispanic studies. A grant of $25,000 from International Business Machines has helped initiate this innovative major, the only one of its kind in the Mid-Hudson area. Pre-legal studies at the Mount is another part of the interdisciplinary program in which Dr. John Reilly has played an essential part.

The burgeoning of these new majors has been greatly aided by Title III grants that have amounted to more than a million dollars since 1978. Much credit is due to the dedicated persistence and proposal writing skills of Sr. Grace Imelda Blanchard who has been Title III coordinator since 1979. Her previous experience in the English and education departments since 1968 has prepared her to serve the college well in applying for this essential resource of funds.

Generous support from the community has also made these developments possible. In 1981-82, the Newburgh Lions Club donated $10,500 in the name of its member and former college treasurer, Albert O. Kingsley; this money has been used as a scholarship fund for local students in health-related fields. The Annual Fund grows more successful each year, with particular support coming from the Trustees Club ($1,000 and over), the Presidents Club ($500-$999), and the Deans Club ($250-$499). In 1982, Avon Products donated a Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope, capable of magnifying up to 70,000 times. Ernest Mills, who replaced Jeffrey Gray as Director of Development in 1984, now serves as the Vice President for Development.

The baccalaureate program in Medical Technology, approved by the state in 1980, received initial accreditation in 1983 from the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association. In the same year, the program in Nursing, begun in 1967 as a baccalaureate degree, was awarded continuing accreditation by the National League for Nursing for the maximum period of eight years. Currently the largest major at the college with 325 students, it has extended its original affiliation with St. Luke's Hospital to more than fifty area hospitals and health service agencies.
With 200 majors, Business Management and Administration is the next most popular field at the college. Psychology has 131 majors and Communication Arts sixty-four. Many of these majors are also seeking certification in elementary, secondary, or special education. While students seek to prepare for different careers, the liberal arts core, which has remained a substantial identifying element in the academic character of the Mount, offers them a humanistic and scientific background that provides a wide horizon for the fixed direction of the road they wish to follow. Although the requirements were reduced from seventy-three to forty-two credits in 1968 and later to thirty-nine, the core has never been dropped as it has been at some other institutions. Presently, Janet Remsnyder of the philosophy department is making a study of its continued effectiveness and adaptation to the students' current academic needs.

In addition to the Aquinas and Ralph awards for scholarship, excellence in course work is also recognized through acceptance in three national honor societies. Beta Beta Beta, established in 1974 and the college's first national honor society, acknowledges superior scholastic achievement in biology. Alpha Sigma Lambda, since 1981, rewards part-time students for outstanding academic performance, while Alpha Chi, introduced in 1980, recognizes students for their academic ability and exemplary character.

Non-credit courses, since 1974, have been an important area in the college's efforts to bring education to as many people as desire it. The Center for Community and Educational Services had been directed by Fr. Joseph McTigue from its beginning, and he introduced other non-credit programs like the Community Education Program, the Saturday Children's College, as well as a variety of courses for
older citizens. In recognition of his accomplishments in this last area, the Orange County Legislature on May 8, 1981, honored him with an award for "Most Valuable Contributions 1980" for his work with the aging. To celebrate the award, Joan Shapiro, mayor of Newburgh, declared May 19 "Father McTigue Day." Less than two months later, on July 2, Fr. Joseph McTigue died at the age of 63. In December, Mary Lewis was appointed to direct the continuing education programs; she was succeeded in January 1985 by Jean Teske, who has been assisting in the program for the past five years. The spirit of Father McTigue lives on in this community service.

The Developmental Skills Center has become an increasingly important service to the students in recent years. Begun in 1978 with funding from Title III, Mrs. Susan McEnery Gaetano, a 1973 graduate of the Mount, was its first director. Julia Posner replaced her in 1980 and continued the tutorial guidance that is the heart of the program. In 1983, Ann Skrzec assumed direction of the center and she has already done much to improve the screening tests for the placement of incoming freshmen. As basic English and mathematical skills decline in the younger population, the methods of improving these skills become ever more important to the learning process in college.

From a glance at recent commencement programs, excellence remains an outstanding quality of the Mount's graduates, with summa cum laude being conferred on four in 1980, nine in 1981, eleven in 1982, seven in 1983, and six in 1984. Credit for these high standards must also go to the faculty, among whom, in addition to those already mentioned, we should add: James N. Beard, communication arts; Grace Gloeckler, biology; Juan B. Montilla, Spanish; Dr. Roger Neustadter, sociology, and his successor in 1984, Dr. Joseph Cannon; Barbara Adams and John Gogard, English; Janet A. Zeman, medical technology; Sr. Mary Schneiders, religious studies; Josephine Feder, mathematics; Dr. James M. Green, physics; Dr. Roy M. Huckabee and Alberta Stith, business; Sr. Catherine Walsh, education; Patricia Lund, Patricia Nicholson, Linda Scheetz, Ellen Abate, Marie Bibby, and Mary Beth Payne, nursing. College chaplains were Fr. Joseph P. LoCigno (1980-81), Fr. Donald Timone (1981-83), and Fr. James J. Gilhooley (1983-present). Fr. Timone continues to teach part time.

Without the administration and its staff, this excellence would be equally unreachable. Dr. Richard M. Dickerman has offered sure financial guidance since 1981, and he is now Vice President for Finance and Treasurer; he was assisted first by Donald Hard and currently by Remi Thibodeau. Harry Steinway serves as Dean of Students. Roberta Singer has been named Director of the Library. Since 1977, Frances Rogers of the class of 1969 has managed the important
area of student financial aid, while Rev. Sherman Roberts has assisted in the Higher Education Opportunity Program since 1982. Deidre Sepp performed well as the director of counseling and career planning from 1977 to 1983, and Sandra Lesibu in this period acted as a HEOP counselor. Diana Jacobs was a popular director of residents; Patricia 0. Whiteman now holds the position. Brendan O. Coyne is director of Public Information. Barbara Currier, a graduate of the class of 1974, has diligently watched over the alumni office for the past four years. Of course, Suzanne DeLorenzo continues to manage the bookstore. Philip Truncali is currently Plant Manager. Marvin A. Fitts has been the capable Business Manager since 1980.

J. Randall Ognibene is presently Director of Admissions after performing wonders as sports director from 1980 to 1983. While athletics has not enjoyed the financial support on this campus that it has on some others, it has always generated enthusiasm, especially for women's basketball in which the Mount today excels. Under Ognibene's coaching, the men's basketball team, the Blue Knights -- which he still coaches -- has reigned as champion of the Northeastern Athletic Conference for the past three seasons. Women's volleyball won league championships in 1982 and 1983; the men and women of the softball teams have also had championship seasons in 1982-84. In 1983, the Mount joined the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Cynthia Cosman presently directs intercollegiate, intramural and recreational sports which include cross-country, tennis, soccer, as well as ping pong and floor hockey.

The sports victories gave the college newspaper plenty to cheer about in this period. The paper has
undergone several metamorphoses: *The Current* (1975-1981), *Profiles* (1981-1982), and *The Clarion* (1982-present). Besides headlining the winning season, *The Current*, with editor-in-chief Diane Corrado, featured Dr. Walter Winton's admission as an attorney counselor to the United States Supreme Court. Irene Walsh Nunnari and Louis Fletcher were highlighted for their musical adaptation of *The School for Scandal*, which was presented in 1982 at the New York University Theater. The paper was also concerned about a pay hike for students, and Michael Randall examined the whole question of pre-Labor Day classes in an interview with Mr. James McEnery. *Profiles*, with Rosemarie Dunn in charge, struck a serious note with an article about the new Communication Arts major and the $350,000 Title III grant just received by the college. Student fascination with soap operas like "General Hospital", and the pursuit of the perfect pizza made for light reading. The return of the Iranian Hostages by way of Stewart Airport in January 1981, with members of the Mount in attendance, was movingly reported. The spring 1982 production of *Pirates of Penzance*, starring Peter Lowry, received warm praise from Richard Campion as "the most joyous theatrical evening I've ever experienced." News correspondent Edwin Newman, the first speaker in the newly established Samuel D. Affron Memorial Lecture Series, merited front-page attention for his April talk on the abuse of language.

*The Clarion*, from 1982-84 under the editorship of Lydia Ambrogio, maintained a vigorous schedule of reporting and reviewing. "Faculty Spotlight", served the useful purpose of providing background on some Mount teachers. A story on Mrs. Ellen Seibert's retirement in fall 1982, after fifteen years of managing the business office and mail room with efficiency and humor took the form of a candid interview by Michael Iovanella. An article reported that Walter Bachman, another familiar and cheering presence on campus, had retired in January 1984 after seven years of providing audio-visual materials to busy classrooms. Sandra Haight was featured as a poet, painter, and part-time student graduating from the Mount with academic distinction. Many issues of the recent *Clarion* sound the same concerns of years past. Security, Saga food service, student government elections, and the boredom or bedlam of dormitory life show that there are still some problems awaiting solutions at the Mount.

Certainly student productions involved many people. James Beard directed *Stage Door*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Blithe Spirit* with unusual imagination, color, and talent within the last three years. The annual Christmas Vespers, under the direction of Louis Fletcher of the music department, becomes more splendid and inspiring with each December. The 1983 presentation was recorded with the sounds of the choir and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra encased in a beautiful jacket designed by Sr. Sylvia Bielen. The Cultural Centre continued to offer top artists in the tradition of Frederica von Stade and the Vienna Choir Boys in the seventies, with Misha Dichter's brilliant piano playing, Michael Moriarty's intriguing acting, and the New York City Opera's festive singing to delight today's local audiences. Frederick Morgan has come to campus often to read his mythic and moving poems; John Moffitt and John Fandel have also read their poems and spoken to poetry classes on campus. Poetry has been an important activity on campus, even back in 1969, when poet Kenneth Koch had the Pipe rocking with laughter. The Pipe, by the way, in the basement of the Villa was the student rathskeller until Nellie's Nook in College Court replaced it in 1973.

Another feature of recent copies of *The Clarion* has been the playful and pointed "Chaplain's Corner," in which Fr. James Gilhooley pokes fun at some collegiate follies and fables. Fr. Gilhooley's involvement with the Newburgh community has brought students to St. Patrick's soup kitchen where helping hands and smiles make a difference, and World Hunger Day has made students conscious of the need to share their goods with others. An observation of the 1967 Middle States evaluation team still applies; it noted "the wholehearted genuine compassion of the college community for the troubled, the defeated, the forgotten among its city neighbors, and the concerted effort the college makes to serve these neighbors with the best of its talents."

Echoing its early enthusiasm for the college, *The Evening News* on May 8, 1981, ran an editorial entitled, "A college town," in which it stated that "more Newburgh area residents are coming to realize what a plus
it is to have a first-class college in the community and what that institution can add in the way of culture and learning." The editorial writer went on to urge local residents to recognize their individual responsibility in doing whatever they can to help the college to succeed.

Twenty years after the first commencement in Aquinas Hall in June 1964, the Mount held graduation on May 12, 1984, with John E. Mack, Ill, the new chairman of the Board of Trustees, presiding. It was fitting that the award of Doctor of Humane Letters be given on that occasion to Sr. Mary Francis McDonald, second president from 1964 to 1972. The citation justly calls her a "founding force" for the college. Among the graduates that year were these summa cum laude students: Sandra Haight, Rene Russ-Lund, Mysia Haight (Communication Arts award winner), Michael Giannakouros (The Clarion Associate Editor), Heather Read, and Mary Ann Warrener (winner of the Alumni and English awards). Students received awards not only for outstanding class service and leadership within the college community but also for service and involvement in the community at large.

The history of Mount Saint Mary College is the story of its students. It is the story of Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Wolfe, the mother of ten, who graduated magna cum laude in 1982 after seventeen years of taking courses at the college. It is the history of those alumni who have been recognized by their peers: Sr. Connie Koch '71 and Bernadette Conlon Doupona '73, winners of the Alumni President's Award for Outstanding Service to the College. It is the Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients: Mary Ellen Dolan Cangiano '66, Margaret Conlon Walczak '68, Patricia Tompkins Favata '68, Claire Ross '68, Elizabeth Ann Scannell '72, and Margaret Smith Spence '66. It is the current dedicated president Mary Ann Lyons Bloom '67 and those alumni who preceded her, among them Geralyn Peterkin '69, Margaret Bauman '70, and Joy Jarvis Bento '68. The true history is to be found also in the pages of Thyme, the college yearbook with its class memories and pictures. The history is the Alumni Association Directory with more than three thousand names listed there, from Ellen Abate '75 to Colette Zylberman '81. It is the history of all the graduates named in between, and the teachers and administrators and staff who for a quarter of a century have tried to assist them to "welcome the light of knowledge and search for the height of truth."
For all those who have been a part of this quest, gratitude is greatness: not in words of thanksgiving, but in deeds of love. As the Mount Saint Mary College family celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary, it can look back at the work "well begun" and ahead to the "paths of service" that lead to personal growth, academic accomplishments, and community involvement. The Mount family has justly taken as the theme of its anniversary celebration: A past of excellence, a future of promise. In the light of its past history, the college can confidently move forward to its next twenty-five years of Youth: "We may our ends by our beginnings know ."

Alma Mater

Above the mighty Hudson
the stately Highlands rise,
There Mount Saint Mary College
our Alma Mater lies.
Facing the morning sun, now we
in the time of our youth
Welcome the light of knowledge
and search for the height of truth.
Teach us and make us wise
that our life be well begun;
Kindle our minds and hearts
that our work be nobly done;
Guide us to paths of service
that we may share what you give;
Help us to love Him better
in Whose perfect love we live.

Tellep-Cotter

About the Author

James F. Cotter, a native of Boston, came to Mount Saint Mary College in 1963 as an associate professor and became a professor in 1968. From 1963-70 he acted as chairman of the English Department. In 1970-71 he taught as a Fulbright-Hays lecturer at the University of Oran in Algeria. In 1972 his book, Incape: The Christology and Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. He has written numerous articles for scholarly journals such as Studies in Philology, Papers on Language and Literature, Victorian Poetry, and Studies in Short Fiction, as well as
many review-articles for America and The Hudson Review. He is a drama and music critic for The Times Herald-Record and has published poetry in America, The Commonweal, The Nation, The New York Times, Spirit, and Thought. Besides teaching and writing, Dr. Cotter enjoys hiking in the area. He is married to Emily Kerrick; their three children, Anne, James, John, are now in or entering college.