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A History of Secondary Catholic Education in Lake County, Illinois

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Loyola University Chicago

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A HISTORY OF SECONDARY CATHOLIC EDUCATION

IN LAKE COUNTY ILLINOIS

by

Reverend Gerald Fraser

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts

January
1961
Gerald Daniel Fraser was born in Chicago, Illinois, December 23, 1912.

He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1937. Father Fraser was ordained a priest April 23, 1938.

Father Fraser has taught in the Catholic schools in Chicago, in the religious program of New Trier High School and at Loyola University. He began his graduate studies at Loyola University in January, 1959.

At the present time, Father Fraser is a professor of theology at De Paul University.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The history of Catholic secondary education in Lake County has its roots in the exploration of the Illinois territory by Father James Marquette in 1673. It was this man who brought Catholicity to this part of the country. In teaching the Indians the Catholic faith it was the duty of the missionary to give them some kind of education so they could understand the truths of the religion.

In the year 1675 Father Marquette opened a mission for the Kaskaskia Indians at Kaskaskia, Illinois. This was the first mission founded in the Illinois Territory. Here the blackrobed Jesuits taught the Indians how to read, write, and work at some trade.

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5 Sister Mary Innocenta Montay, p. 4.
In 1696 the Jesuit Fathers founded a mission on the present site of Chicago and called it Angel Guardian Mission. Here both Indian boys and girls were taught. In 1700 the French governor closed this mission. 6

The eighteenth century saw very little formal education in the Illinois territory. What little there was, was held in the small Jesuit Indian Schools throughout the state. When the Jesuits were suppressed in 1763, these missions were all closed. 7

After the Revolutionary War, some Irish Catholic soldiers taught the children of the pioneers in Illinois. The most famous of these Catholic teachers were Patrick Halfpenny and John Doyle. This was an attempt to teach the children just the fundamentals of the three R's. 8

In 1809 Father Urban Guillet, a Trappist priest, opened a mission with a school at Cahokia. It was named the mission of Notre Dame de Bon Secours. Here thirty youths were taught "literature and agriculture". 9 This school lasted until 1813 when it was closed. 10

6Garraghan, pp. 13, 22.
8Sister Mary Innocents Montay, p. 5.
9Gilbert J. Garraghan, Chapters in Frontier History (Milwaukee, 1934)
10Thompson, p. 157.
About the year 1820 immigrants began to come to Illinois, slowly at first, then in great numbers. 11 By the year 1835, the number of new arrivals offered quite a problem to the Catholic Church. Churches and schools sprang up throughout the state, e. g., in 1836 in Galena, in 1837 in Lockport, in 1841 in Alton. 12

The Catholics in the vicinity of Chicago begged Bishop Rosati of St. Louis for a priest. 13 In 1833 he sent them Father John Mary Irenaeus St. Cyr. 14 Father St. Cyr built St. Mary's Church in 1833 with the hope of opening a school. 15

In November of 1833, Father St. Cyr wrote to his bishop, "Thursday next we are going to open a school in which three languages, French, English, and Latin will be taught." 16 We have no record of whether this school was opened or not.

November 26, 1843, Pope Gregory XVI erected the diocese of Chicago and appointed Reverend William Quarter, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, New York, as incumbent of the New See. The Diocese embraced the whole state of Illinois. 17

12Thompson, pp. 179, 185, 201.  
14Garraghan, p. 46.  
15Thompson, p. 14.  
16Garraghan, p. 49.  
17Garraghan, p. 108.
This man, although he died four years later, was without doubt, one of the greatest bishops of the United States. He arrived in Chicago where there was one church, St. Mary's; there were no schools, no sisters, no Chicago diocesan priests. 18

At his death, four years later, the picture was completely changed. Among his other accomplishments he put away forever one of the worst evils of the American Catholic Church, the evil of trusteeism. He did this by having a law enacted in the Illinois Legislature constituting the Catholic Bishop of Chicago and his successors—a "corporation sole" to hold property in trust for religious purposes.

He secured from the Illinois Legislature an act dated December 19, 1844, incorporating the University of St. Mary of the Lake. This charter is still used by the Chicago archdiocesan seminary—St. Mary of the Lake Seminary. 19 He persuaded the Sisters of Mercy to come from Pittsburg and start the first Catholic girls high school—St. Xavier's Academy, which was incorporated by an act of the Illinois Legislature in 1847. 20

18Thompson, p. 27.
19Garraghān, pp. 113-114.
20Thompson, p. 24.
During the period of his episcopacy he ordained twenty-nine priests, built thirty churches, ten of which were either of brick or stone. He began his labors with six clergymen in his diocese, and not one ecclesiastical student; he left it with fifty-three clergymen and twenty ecclesiastical students. On all the improvements made by him in Chicago, there was not one cent of debt. 21

The next four bishops of Chicago, Rt. Reverend James Van De Valde, S. J., 1848-1853; Rt. Reverend Anthony O'Regan, 1853-1858; Rt. Reverend James Duggan, 1859-1869; and Rt. Reverend Thomas Foley, 1870-1879, saw the diocese of Chicago grow from a small missionary diocese to one of the largest in the country. This was due to the steady influx of Catholic immigrants to the Middle West. 22 This growth is shown in the following:

21 Thompson, pp. 24, 27.

From the estimated 1,300 Catholics of Bishop Quarter in Chicago, 1846, there were under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the bishop:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>460,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>660,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1,150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1,691,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>2,073,616</td>
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On September 10, 1860, Chicago was elevated to the rank of an archdiocese, and Most Reverend Patrick Feehan was made first archbishop. His successors were Most Reverend James Quigley, 1903-1915; George Cardinal Mundelein, 1916-1939; Samuel Cardinal Stritch, 1939-1959; and Albert Cardinal Meyer, 1958-. All of these men by their energy, zeal and enthusiasm for Catholic education, developed the Chicago Catholic school system in becoming the largest Catholic school system in the world.

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At the present time the archdiocese includes only two counties, Cook County and Lake County. Cook County in the south with the heavily populated city of Chicago and Lake County in the north with the less populated and more rural sections. 26 Cook County has 964 square miles and a population (1960) of 4,508,792. 27 Lake County has 457 square miles and a population (1960) of 290,898. 28

The first permanent white settlers in Lake County arrived in 1835. They were principally German and Irish farmers who settled on the large tracts of land then available. 29 The county was quite dormant until 1890 when a railroad, the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company was built. This brought industry and a population increase. Waukegan, the largest city in Lake County, grew from 4,915 in 1890 to 16,069 in 1910. Between 1890 and 1910, large numbers of Scandinavians, Germans, Finns, and Irish poured into the county. The 1920 period of industrial expansion attracted working people from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Yugoslavia, and Italy.

26 The Official Catholic Directory, pp. 5, 34.


28 Census Bureau, (Waukeegan, Illinois).

29 Jane Snodgrass Johnson, History of Lake County (Waukeegan, 1939) p. 25.
Presently, Lake County has quite a bit of industry in the district along the Lake in Waukegan and North Chicago. It also is an outstanding agricultural county with 1,293 farms. It is the sixth richest county in per family income in the United States. 30

CHAPTER II

In an historical research in the archdiocese of Chicago, whether it concerns education, Catholic Charities, foundation of churches, or any other facet of history, the historian meets with one tremendous difficulty.

The official record of a diocese, the letters of the bishop written by him and received by him, are usually kept in the archives of the seminary of the diocese. The archives of Chicago are practically empty and non-existent. The archives of St. Mary's Seminary at Mundelein, Illinois, contain practically nothing pertinent to a historical research. For all practical purposes, this means that nearly all the primary sources for any information of the nineteenth century are not to be had.

Why this loss of valuable data? On Sunday evening, October 9, 1871, an uncontrollable fire raged through the city of Chicago, the famous Chicago fire. The entire business district of Chicago and with it thousands of homes were wiped out. The Catholic diocese suffered heavily; churches, schools, convents were destroyed. In the fire, St. Mary's Cathedral and the Bishop's residence burned and with them all the records of the Chicago diocese. ¹

What happened to the records after the fire and up and into the twentieth century?

¹Garraghan, p. 221.
According to Rt. Reverend Monsignor Harold Koenig, former librarian of St. Mary's Seminary, it was the policy of the Chancery office at the death of the Bishop to burn whatever letters of the former Bishop still at hand. This practice lasted until Cardinal Mundelein arrived in 1915. Cardinal Mundelein is quoted as saying, "I have no letter on hand of any of my predecessors."  

In the nineteenth century secondary Catholic education in Cook County increased and developed rapidly. In Lake County, secondary Catholic education developed very slowly. In Cook County, since Bishop Quarter opened St. Mary of the Lake School in 1844, sixty-four other secondary Catholic Schools were opened. In this same period of time, two secondary Catholic schools were opened in Lake County.

Of the sixty-five Catholic secondary schools begun in the nineteenth century in Cook County, the following nineteen schools are still existent: St. Xavier Academy, St. Scholastica, St. Patrick Academy, St. Ignatius, St. Patrick, Academy of Our Lady, St. Patrick Academy, Des Plaines, St. Michael, Holy Family Academy, Our Lady of Providence Academy, De La Salle Institute, St. Stanislaus College, Josephinum Academy, Loretto Academy, St. Catherine Academy, St. Alphonsus, De Paul University Academy, St. Mary's High School, and St. Cyril College.

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2Information from a personal interview of the author with Monsignor Harold Koenig, former Librarian of Mundelein, Illinois.
Of the two Catholic secondary schools in Lake County, St. Albertus Academy, Waukegan, and St. Mary's Academy, Libertyville, neither is existent. 3

Immaculate Conception parish in Waukegan, Illinois, was founded in 1841, three years before the diocese of Chicago was erected. It is the fifth oldest parish in the archdiocese. 4 It was this parish that gave Lake County its first Catholic secondary school. Reverend Edward Gavin of Immaculate Conception Parish opened in 1880, St. Albertus Academy, a parochial Catholic High School. This school was staffed with the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. It was a select school for girls. English, Latin, algebra, bookkeeping, physical geography, and music were taught. 5 This school was closed in 1892 because of lack of attendance. 6

The second Catholic High School in Lake County was started by the Sisters of Mercy in Libertyville, Illinois, in 1898. The Sisters of Mercy owned a health resort out in the country, south of the then tiny hamlet of Libertyville. The Sisters decided to make a boarding school for girls of this resort. This school was opened in the fall of 1898 and was named St. Mary's Academy. The enrollment was very small, thirty-six pupils in all. 7

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3Sister Mary Innocenta Montay, pp. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.


5Souvenir Volume of the Dedication of Immaculate Conception Church, May 11, 1930, Archives of Immaculate Conception Convent, Sisters of St. Dominic, Waukegan, Illinois.

6Hoffman's Catholic Directory, (Milwaukee, 1892), p. 73.

7New World, July 30, 1898, p. 4.
The location of this school vitiated against its success, and it was closed as a school in 1910. It reverted back to a health resort. It still stands and is now owned by Serbian Monks. These two small schools are the meager contribution of Lake County toward Catholic secondary education in the nineteenth century.

The first lasting Catholic secondary school in Lake County was opened in 1904 in Lake Forest by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. It is called the Academy of the Sacred Heart. The cause of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Chicago owes much to the good nuns of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Bishop O'Regan procured these nuns for teaching purposes in Chicago. They arrived August 24, 1858. They opened an academy and free school in the boundaries of the famous Holy Family Parish.

In its day, Holy Family Church in Chicago was the largest parish in the United States with twenty-five thousand parishioners. Its grammar school numbered 5,000 children in 1877. Of this number, the Religious of the Sacred Heart taught approximately 1,000.

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8Sister Mary Innocents Montay, p. 83.


At the turn of the century the neighborhood in which the school was situated began to change. From a Catholic Irish neighborhood, it turned Jewish. The nuns after much deliberation decided to move their academy, which was a boarding school, to a new neighborhood. They decided on Lake Forest, Illinois. In the annals of their order we read: "For some twenty years, efforts had been made to establish a new house of the Sacred Heart near Chicago, to which might be transferred the boarding school which could not remain permanently at West Taylor street. In December, 1901, the Society purchased an estate of forty-five acres of wooded land at Lake Forest, about thirty miles north of the city on Lake Michigan. Reverend Mother Charlotte Lewis initiated the work of building in 1902. Construction work was suspended in 1903, as funds were lacking, and only in the spring of 1904 was it pushed vigorously. The school opened on September 20, with sixty-six children. Soon the number mounted to ninety."  

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11 Callan, Louise, p. 646.  
This was quite an auspicious start. This school started with a good faculty—teachers from an order quite famous in educational circles—the so-called "Madames of the Sacred Heart." It had very good and new equipment, and it had quite a few pupils. It is no wonder, then, that it still stands, sending out cultured young ladies into the world. From this Academy, with the help of some Jesuit professors of Loyola, developed in October, 1918, the famous Barat College. 13

The program of studies at the Academy provides for a balanced, general education. On a strong foundation of religion and philosophy, is built the superstructure of a culture predominantly literary, but with due attention to the natural sciences. French is taught in all the classes. Special attention is given to dramatics and choral work. The school is accredited by the University of Illinois, the Illinois State Department of Public Education and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. 14


The curriculum is as follows:

COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM

Minimum Requirements for diploma.................. 16 units

Note: A unit represents a year's study in any subject which is carried at least four times a week.

A. Required subjects

1. English.............................................. 4 units
2. Foreign Language................................. 4 units
   (Chosen from French or Latin)
   (Note: At least two units are required in any one language. A total of five or six units is required by some colleges.)
3. Algebra................................................. 1 unit
4. Plane Geometry..................................... 1 unit
5. History............................................... 4 units
   First year: Ancient taken in
   Second year: Medieval
   Third year: Modern
   Fourth year: American

6. Science............................................... 1 unit
   chosen from Biology
   Chemistry
   Physics

B. Electives

1. Intermediate Algebra
2. Music
   Appreciation of Music
   Applied Music

It might be well, after reading the present College Preparatory Curriculum of this school, to turn back the pages of time to the very beginning of this school and read the prospectus offered in 1860, one hundred years ago.
YOUNG LADIES’ SEMINARY, 1860
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE RELIGIOUS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE SACRED HEART
CORNER OF TAYLOR AND THROOP STREETS
BETWEEN TWELFTH STREET AND VERNON PARK, NEAR HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Religious of the Institute are now prepared to receive pupils in their newly erected Seminary which is delightfully situated in one of the most salubrious localities of the city on the West Side near Vernon Park. Extensive grounds surround the institution and are being laid out in such a manner as to afford the pupils ample advantage for healthful exercise. The health of the pupils is the object of constant solicitude.

The Education Course of Instruction embraces the various elementary as well as the higher branches of a finished education. Propriety of deportment, politeness, personal neatness, and the principles of morality are objects of unceasing assiduity. An excellent Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus forms a valuable addition to the means of instruction. The French language is fluently and constantly spoken in this institution. Domestic Economy, all kinds of useful and ornamental Needle Work, Embroidery, in Silk, etc., etc., and every species of Fancy Work, are taught without extra charge.

No deduction is made for pupil withdrawing before expiration of her quarter, except for cogent reasons. All young ladies, for the sake of regularity are required to conform to the public worship of the house. 15

TERMS

Board and Tuition including English and French, payable semi-annually in advance, per annum..........................$140.00
Half-Boarders, payable quarterly in advance, per annum....$ 80.00
Day Scholars, payable quarterly in advance, per annum.....$ 50.00
Entrance fee for Boarders............................................$ 5.00

EXTRA CHARGES

German language, per quarter........................................$ 5.00
Piano or Guitar, per quarter.........................................$12.00
Use of piano, per quarter............................................$ 4.00
Drawing and painting, per quarter.................................$ 5.00
Washing, per quarter..................................................$ 5.00

15Sister Mary Innocenta Montay, pp. 392, 393.
Clothing—No particular dress is required for everyday; on Sundays and Visiting days, uniform is necessary. Each pupil must prepare three pair of sheets, blanket, comfort, etc., a white and black bobbinet veil, each two yards long; with edging; a silver or metal cup, fork, table and teaspoon, a knife, a workbox furnished with thimble, scissors, needles, thread, tape; a dressing box, a toothbrush, combs, brushes, etc.

Remarks—In order to avoid interruption in the classes visits are confined to Saturdays, and can only be made to pupils by their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, and such others as are formally authorized by the parents. There will be a yearly vacation of six weeks which pupils may spend with parents; if they remain in the institution they pay $15. If parents or guardians desire the young ladies to be furnished with clothing, etc., by the Institution, they will deposit a sum of money, as no advance will be made.

In comparing the prospectus of 1860 with the curriculum of 1960, we see the same stress on learning French. It can be noted also the great emphasis one hundred years ago on what would be home economics and the lack of this emphasis in today's curriculum. We can also see the great similarity in the classical subjects.

At the present time (1960) there are 210 students in the High School. Forty-eight of these are boarders. This school has always been selective. The nuns stress the fact that to give an excellent education, they must have small numbers. They aim to make leaders of their girls. There is a large waiting list, not only in the high school, but also in Barat College. At the present time the tuition is $400.00 dollars a year for day students and $1,000 dollars a year for boarding students. Next year (1961) this tuition

________________________________________
15 Sister Mary Innocenta Montay, pp. 392, 393.
is to be raised to $500 dollars and $1,200 dollars. As far as Lake County goes, however, very few of the girls of high school age attend this Academy. Approximately thirty of the 210 are from Lake County. At the present time, a new high school is being built. When this is finished, the nuns will have a top attendance of 240. 16

Reverend James O'Neil, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Highland Park opened a high school in 1913 in Highland Park. It was called Immaculate Conception High School and was taught by the Sisters of Loretto of Nerinx, Kentucky. In 1916 this school burned to the ground. The pastor immediately built a new one. This new school was dedicated in 1916 by Cardinal Mundelein. It offered a regular four year course. In 1927 the regular four year course was changed to a two year commercial course. In 1929 this Catholic High School was closed because of a decrease in enrollment. 17

16 Information from a personal interview of the author with Mother Condon, Principal of Sacred Heart Academy, Lake Forest, Illinois.

Reverend Francis Barry erected St. Mary's grammar and two year Commercial High School in Lake Forest in 1917. This two year high school only lasted five years and was closed in 1922. In that five year period, about 100 boys and girls graduated—hardly enough to insure success. 18

After eighty years of failures and one success, we consider in our next chapter the one outstanding successful school for the youths of Lake County in the foundation of Holy Child High School, Waukegan, September, 1921.

18 Sister Mary Innocenta Montay, p. 250.
CHAPTER III

The one bright light in Catholic secondary education in Lake County is Holy Child High School in Waukegan. This school was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus in 1921. 1

The Holy Child nuns have contributed much to Catholic education in America. They were founded by an American, Cornelia Connelly. This remarkable woman was born in Philadelphia in 1809. She was reared an Anglican. At the age of twenty-two, she married an Anglican minister, Reverend Pierce Connelly. Three children were born of this union. A few years later, December, 1935, Cornelia and her husband were received into the Catholic Church. 2

Bishop Blane of New Orleans had asked the Jesuits to open a college in the diocese of New Orleans at Grand Coteau, Louisiana, the College of St. Charles. This college needed a teacher of English literature and a teacher of music. The Jesuits got in touch with the Connellys and they accepted these positions. 3

2Mother Mary Xavier, Cornelia Connelly. (Dublin, 1946) pp. 1-5.
3Mother Cornelia Connelly by a member of the Society, 1946, p.6.
In 1840 Pierce Connelly decided to become a priest. In order to accomplish his goal, his wife, Cornelia had to become a nun. Cornelia accepted this cross—breaking up her beautiful married life, and entered the convent of the Sacred Heart. Pierce was ordained a priest.

Cornelia Connelly in 1848 founded the order of the Holy Child of Jesus in England. From this time on, one cross after another had to be carried by this dauntless woman. Her husband deserted from the holy priesthood and brought suit against her in an English court. He sought her return and asked a restitution of conjugal rights. This case dragged through the English courts. A judgment was given in his favor in 1849, but the decision was reversed in 1851. She never saw her children again as he took them away from her and never allowed them to see their mother. She met with opposition in the order she founded. The rule of the order was not approved by the Holy See in her lifetime. She died a tragic figure in 1897.

In August 1862, Mother Connelly sent some of her nuns to America to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Here the first foundation of this society in America took place.

On March 9, 1906, the Jesuits of Chicago purchased a strip of unimproved property lying between Sheridan Road and the lake from Devon Avenue to Loyola Avenue. This property was to be the site of Loyola University. The first

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4 The Life of Cornelia Connelly by a member of the Society. (New York, 1922) p. 77 ff.

building erected was a small wooden church, St. Ignatius Church. From this small church grew the large and beautiful parish of St. Ignatius. When the Jesuit fathers of St. Ignatius parish were ready to open their grammar school they sought the best teaching order they could find to keep up all the teaching traditions of their own order. They procured the Holy Child nuns from Philadelphia to teach there.

In 1914, Archbishop Quigley gave permission to the Sisters of the Holy Child to open a Catholic High School in the boundaries of St. Ignatius, at 6585 Sheridan Road. This school was not very large numerically; it had one hundred and six pupils in 1919, but scholastically it was rated very high by people who recognized good education. 6

In 1920, Cardinal Mundelein called in the superior of the Sisters of the Holy Child and asked her to close the school on Sheridan Road and establish a Central Catholic High School in Waukegan, Illinois. He was demanding quite a sacrifice. 7

6 Thompson, pp. 626, 628, 719.

Their school in Chicago was small but was financially stable. It was in an excellent section in Chicago—Rogers Park. Their order was establishing an excellent reputation in teaching circles in Chicago with its high school and grammar school in the Jesuit parish. What had Waukegan to offer? No assurance of success. The few Catholic High Schools started in the area had met with failure. The nuns would have to shoulder quite a sizeable debt. 8

Mother Connelly had taught her subjects well. "Doing the will of God is the only happiness and the only thing worth living for." The nuns obeyed Cardinal Mundelein. On April 18, 1921, the Sisters took possession of a house on Sheridan Road in Waukegan. When the school opened its doors in September, 1921, a small group of twenty-eight students were enrolled in the Holy Child High School. 9

8 The Spiritual Writings of Cornelia Connelly, God Alone. (Springfield, 1960) p. 32.

While these nuns in Chicago were making this change, things were working quite differently for the Holy Child nuns in Philadelphia. The same year, 1921, Cardinal Dougherty himself, went seeking grounds for a new college in his diocese. He found an ideal place—"large grounds, rolling lawns, a brook running under rustic bridges, a wide house crowning a hill." He allowed the nuns to buy it and start Rosemont College, one of the finest Catholic Colleges in the East. 10

The early years of Holy Child High School in Waukegan were years of trials, sacrifices and heartbreak. The enrollment was very small. Financially, the school was in bad shape. 11 In a period of two years, 1925 to 1927, three local parishes opened high schools. They drew on the small number of students desiring a Catholic high school education. This, of course, defeated the purpose of one Central Catholic high school. 12 Of the two buildings on the grounds in 1921, which the nuns purchased—one was completely destroyed by fire in 1930, and the other was found to be so unsafe that it had to be demolished. The nuns had to raise funds and build in the height of the depression. 13

10Mother Mary Xavier, p. 18.

11Annals of Holy Child High School

12Sister Mary Innocenta Montay, pp. 32-33.

13Annals of Holy Child High School
Through all the trials and heartaches of the early years, the sisters remained in their determination to obey the Cardinal and try to give the very best secondary Catholic education to the young girls of Lake County.

The years have rewarded the nuns. Today, Holy Child High School stands as the one Catholic secondary high school in the area, growing year by year and sending its graduates out with the finest of Catholic educations.

The philosophy of education as stressed in Holy Child High School is rooted in Christian principles and takes seriously into account the great fundamental truths. The school accepts these truths in their entirety and endeavors to give its students the fundamental knowledge which will prepare them for an intelligent and efficient participation in life; while at the same time the sublime end for which they were created is kept in mind.

Socially, the student is taught that she must honor and respect properly constituted authority in all departments of life, since the source of such authority is found in God. She is shown why she must do her part as a citizen in the community in which she finds herself, and that it is a privilege as well as a duty to serve. She is taught in true charity and justice to respect the property and rights of others and at all times to act with sincerity and prudence.
In her physical training, the school aims to teach her that her body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit" and therefore must be respected by herself and others. She is made to realize that self-control, a spirit of fair play and observance of the laws of health are important assets. Modesty in dress and courtesy in manner and speech are not considered old-fashioned in this school, nor "repressive" in their influence. In a word, culture and refinement are esteemed as lasting outcomes in a Christian education. 14

The curriculum of Holy Child High School is as follows:

HOLY CHILD HIGH SCHOOL

Minimum requirements for diploma........................16 units

A. Required Subjects:

Religion (4 Years)
English (4 Years)
Elementary Algebra
Science
Social Studies
  World History
  United States History
  Problems of Democracy

B. Electives:

Foreign Languages
  Latin  2 years
  Spanish 2 years
  French  3 years
  General Language

Science
  General Science
  Biology
  Chemistry

Mathematics
  Plane Geometry
  Intermediate Algebra

Business Education
  Typing  2 years
  Shorthand

Homemaking
  Homemaking  3 years

Art  3 years

Physical Education  4 years (required)

Music
  Glee Club  1 year
  Chorus  3 years

The school is accredited by the University of Illinois, the Illinois State Department of Public Education and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

At the present time, 1960, there are 358 students. They are taught by a faculty of twenty one. Of this number one is a Ph. D., nine have their Master's Degrees and all, of course, have bachelor degrees. The tuition is one hundred and fifty dollars a year, much lower than the tuition in most Catholic girls' secondary schools in the archdiocese of Chicago. 15

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15 Personal Interview with Mother John, principal of Holy Child High School.
In 1925, 1926, and 1927 three Catholic secondary schools were opened in Lake County: Holy Rosary High School in North Chicago, St. Joseph's High School in Waukegan and St. Mary's High School in Fremont Center. All three were closed by 1934. 16

Holy Rosary Parish in North Chicago is an old Polish parish in Lake County. Its pastor in 1925, Reverend Julian Grzesinski, wishing to provide his girls with a business training, opened Holy Rosary High. It was a two year commercial course and was taught by the excellent teachers of the Felician Order. The program of studies was made up of Religion, English, spelling, typewriting, shorthand, bookkeeping, arithmetic, commercial law, filing and secretarial studies. This was primarily for the girls graduating from Holy Rosary grammar school. 17

One year later, Father Arthur Mescher, pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Waukegan, also opened a two year commercial high school in his parish. This parish took care of all the German Catholics in Northern Lake County. It was a co-educational school. Its enrollment was rather low. Nineteen students were enrolled in the first year. Its program of studies was much the same as Holy Rosary High - a regular commercial course. 18

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18 Interview with Reverend George Knippen, pastor of St. Joseph’s Church, Waukegan, Illinois.
One year later in 1927 another two year commercial high was opened in Lake County. This school was opened by the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Fremont Center, Reverend Bernard Laukemper. This also was a co-educational school. Its program of studies was similar to the other two high schools previously mentioned, St. Joseph's and Holy Rosary. It, however, added Latin and algebra to its course. This school was taught by the Franciscan nuns. 19

Cardinal Mundelein in 1932 advised the discontinuance of small high schools in areas where central high schools had been established. Holy Rosary closed in 1932, St. Mary's in 1933 and St. Joseph's in 1934. 20

In 1937 the pastor of Mother of God parish in Waukegan opened a two year co-educational high school. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago were the teachers. The studies offered were typing, shorthand, religion, English, history, mathematics, science and Spanish. The state Department of Public Instruction gave its approval. This school was discontinued in 1943. It might be well to see why this school closed. Its history is so true of the failure of so many parochial schools.

19 Personal interview with Reverend Charles Burke, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Fremont Center.

20 Sister Mary Innocenta Montay, p. 282.
The pastor of Mother of God parish from 1938 to the present time is young, vital, very active, Father Matthias Hiti. He did all in his power to make this school a success. In 1937 there were enough nuns and class rooms available at this parish. The two year commercial high was opened. The difficulties were insurmountable: to obtain state recognition in the matter of sisters' accreditation, the nuns had to attend schools to obtain the necessary credits to teach in a secondary school.

The state demanded so many cubic feet for classrooms, a swimming pool or at least swimming classes. The students had to journey to the public high school for swimming classes. The state requirements for a library was quite a problem for the pastor.

The enrollment was small - about sixty. Practically all came from different parishes other than Mother of God Parish. Its school graduates wanted to go elsewhere. Only ten per cent went to their own high school. The parishioners complained because they were not educating their own children. Financially it was a drain on the parish. It was costing much more than the tuition. This caused quite a bit of damage to the parish finances.
The Motherhouse of the Benedictine nuns wanted to take away their nuns and send them to Salida, Colorado, where they needed extra nuns. In utter hopelessness, the pastor striving against all these odds appealed to Cardinal Stritch. The Cardinal begged him to do all in his power to keep the school open. He told the pastor he was taking a survey of Lake County with the hope of building needed Catholic high schools. He wanted this small school to be a "bridge between Chicago and Lake County." Father Hiti informed the nuns of the Cardinal's attitude. They agreed to remain at the school. The situation with its many difficulties did not change. Finally the Mother house recalled her nuns and the school was closed.

The history of this school epitomized all the troubles that face the parish priest trying to run a parochial high school - finances - pressure from parishioners - state recognition and its requirements. It is no wonder that every single parochial Catholic Secondary School in Lake County failed.

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21 Personal interview with Father Matthias Hiti, pastor of Mother of God Parish, Waukegan, Illinois.
CHAPTER IV

In studying the present situation of secondary high schools in Lake County it might be well, for a brief minute, to look at the picture of the Catholic elementary schools in Lake County.

The following twenty-six schools according to the archdiocese school board are in the county:

Antioch
St. Peter School

Barrington
St. Ann School

Buffalo Grove
St. Mary School

Deerfield
Holy Cross School

Fox Lake
St. Bede School

Fremont Center
St. Mary School

Grayslake
St. Gilbert School

Highland Park
Immaculate Conception School

Highwood
St. James School
Lake Forest
St. Mary School

Lake Villa
Prince of Peace School

Lake Zurich
St. Francis de Sales School

Libertyville
St. Joseph School

Mundelein
Santa Maria Del Popolo School

North Chicago
Holy Family School
Holy Rosary School

Round Lake
St. Joseph School

Volo
St. Peter School

Waukegan
St. Patrick School

Wauconda
Transfiguration School

Waukegan
St. Anastasia School
St. Bartholomew School
Immaculate Conception School
Mother of God School
St. Joseph School

Zion
Our Lady of Humility School
The enrollment in these schools in 1958 - 1959 was 9,797. In 1960 - 1960 the enrollment grew to 10,208. At the present time 1960 - 1961 it stands at 11,164. In 1959 the Catholic elementary schools in Lake County graduated 721. In 1960 this number grew to 910 pupils. ¹

Of the 910 Catholic pupils graduating in 1960 approximately 130 went to Catholic High Schools in Lake County. ² The vast majority enrolled in public high schools. Why this vast exodus from Catholic elementary to public secondary schools? The answer to this question is developed in the subsequent section.

At the present time there are in the whole of Lake County only two Catholic High Schools, Holy Child High School, Waukegan, and the Academy of the Sacred Heart at Lake Forest.

The Academy of the Sacred Heart is a very select girls’ school. The majority of its pupils come from the wealthy North Shore’s suburbs to the south, Winnetka, Kenilworth, Wilmette, and Evanston. Very few pupils from Lake County, where the majority are middle income class people, enter this exclusive school. Only about thirty of the two hundred and ten pupils enrolled in this Academy live in Lake County. ³ One might say of this school - that as

¹Archdiocese of Chicago School Board, Chicago, Illinois.
²Records of Holy Child High School and Academy of the Sacred Heart.
³Interview with Mother Condon.
far as helping the nine hundred and ten Catholic graduated of the Catholic Schools in Lake County enter a Catholic secondary school it contributes little.

That leaves Holy Child High School as the only Catholic secondary school in Lake County within the reach of the majority of the Catholic graduates. All of the three hundred and fifty-eight students in this school come from Lake County. This school is exclusively for girls. 4 In the whole county which runs some four hundred and fifty-seven square miles, which stretches from Cook County all the way to the Wisconsin State Line and which numbers 290,896 inhabitants, there is not one Catholic Secondary School for boys.

This tremendous county, for all practical purposes, has only one Catholic High School, a school for girls, Holy Child High School, Waukegan. For over twenty years there has been agitation on the part of the Catholic people to have a Catholic boys' high school in Lake County. It was mentioned in the last chapter that, when Father Hiti of Mother of God Parish, Waukegan was fighting to keep his school open, Cardinal Stritch told him that he was having a survey of the county to look into the advisability of erecting a Catholic High School in the county. 5 Ten years later, 1950, Monsignor Joseph Garrity,

4 Interview with Mother John.

5 Interview with Father Hiti.
pastor of St. Anastasia Parish in Waukegan approached Cardinal Stritch on the advisability of erecting a Catholic High School for boys. The Cardinal told him that it seemed the financial picture of Lake County was against erecting at that time a Catholic boys' high school. The parishes at the time were carrying quite a bit of debt and the Cardinal did not wish to burden them further. He said, however, that he would give it much prayerful thought. 

In 1957 at the pastors' night given by the Serra Club of Lake County, Cardinal Stritch gave the address. He said then that he was having a meeting of the pastors of Lake County and would build a high school for boys in Waukegan or close to Waukegan, Illinois. Later property was purchased at Meares Road and Glen Flora on the western outskirts of the city of Waukegan for this purpose. The Christian Brothers said they would supply the faculty. Everything was moving in the direction of a new high school. Then on May 27, 1958, Cardinal Stritch died.

Cardinal Meyer was transferred to the See of Chicago, September 19, 1958. Cardinal Meyer, with his great interest in Catholic education, sent Monsignor William McMamus, Superintendent of the Archdiocesan School Board to Lake County to study the problem.

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7 Waukegan News Sun, April 24, 1957, p. 1.
8 Waukegan News Sun, April 6, 1958, p. 1.
9 Saint De La Salle Auxiliary, Spring - 1958, p. 20.
Monsignor McManus held many meetings with the pastors of Lake County. It was decided to erect the high school, not at Waukegan but at Libertyville. The Carmelite Fathers offered to take over the high school. The land at Libertyville was not suitable for a high school. It was low land and when rains came it was completely flooded. Finally, it was decided to build the high school at Mundelein, Illinois: close to the Seminary of Saint Mary of the Lake. This location would be ideal since it was centrally located in the county. However, the large percentage of the Catholic population is on the eastern side of the county - close to the lake. The question then arose whether the high school be built with an eye toward Catholic population or an eye toward location. The question has not yet been answered.

Lake County at the present time still has no Catholic high school for boys and only two Catholic high schools for girls. This is the picture for approximately 1,000 pupils graduating from Catholic elementary schools in Lake County.


CHAPTER V

This study has traced in chronological order the growth and development of Catholic secondary education in Lake County from the days of Father Man-quette to the present. It has treated the educational system with regard to student body, staff, types of schools, programs of study and the lack of growth of most Catholic secondary schools in the County.

In the early pioneer days, there were practically no Catholic schools in the state with a few exceptions. In 1896, on the present site of Chicago, there was an Indian school, the Angel Guardian Mission. In the beginning of the eighteenth century the Jesuits had a small number of schools for the Indians throughout the state. In the second half of the eighteenth century these schools went out of existence primarily because of the suppression of the Jesuits.

In the first half of the nineteenth century due to the great number of immigrants coming to the state, secondary Catholic education began to take shape. In the second half of the century the secondary schools increased very rapidly. In Cook County sixty-four secondary schools were opened from 1844 to 1900.

In Lake County, however, the number of secondary Catholic schools grew very slowly. Lake County did not have the extreme population growth in the nineteenth century that Cook County did. The first school, St. Albertus, was
opened in Waukegan in 1880. From that day to this, a period of eighty years, Lake County has had only ten Catholic secondary schools. Seven of these were parochial. These seven are now non-existent. Three schools were non-parochial and two of them are still existent. The seven parochial schools either began as a two year commercial course or started as a four year course and finished as a two year commercial course. The two non-parochial schools still in Lake County, Holy Child High School, Waukegan and the Academy of the Sacred Heart at Lake Forest, have a four year course with emphasis on classical courses.

At the present time the number of students in Catholic secondary schools in Lake County is 568. Of this number 388 live in Lake County. The Catholic elementary school enrollment at the present time is 11,164. The elementary schools graduate about 1,000 students of which number only 130 go to Catholic secondary schools in the county. The vast majority attend public high schools. The Archdiocese of Chicago plans to build a Catholic boys' high school in the county in the near future.

The one bright ray in the Catholic School picture is the great increase in Catholic population. Most of the new-comers are arriving from Cook County. They come with an ardent desire for Catholic higher education for their children. It is my humble opinion the future of Catholic secondary education is in their hands and they will not be found wanting.
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APPRAVAL SHEET

The thesis submitted by Reverend Gerald Fraser has been read and approved by a board of three members of the Department of Education.

The final copies have been examined by the director of the thesis and the signature which appears below verifies the fact that any necessary changes have been incorporated, and that the thesis is now given final approval with reference to content, form, and mechanical accuracy.

The thesis is therefore accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts.

Jan. 24, 1961
Date

John W. Douglas
Signature of Adviser