

THE GOOD NEWS



Kalamazoo religious sisters announce celebrations to mark 125 years in the area

Hospitals, educational facilities and countless ministries (such as the orphanage shown above) are just a few examples of the lasting legacy begun 125 years ago when 11 sisters came to Kalamazoo at the invitation of Msgr. Francis O'Brien.



Msgr. Francis O'Brien

The Sisters of St. Joseph, now members of the Congregation of St. Joseph, will mark its historic 125 years in Kalamazoo with special celebrations planned this summer and in the fall. On Sunday, July 6th, the Sisters' will host "Founder's Day" beginning with a 1 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving. Guided tours of Holy Family Chapel and the History Room featuring memorabilia and historical artifacts from the past century will be given until 4:30 p.m. Additional information on the celebration contact: 269-381-6290, ext. 267.

All former students, faculty

and staff of the former Nazareth College, Nazareth Academy, Barbour Hall, St. Camillus/Borgess School of Nursing and St. Joseph/Flint School of Nursing are invited to participate in "Spirit Days" on Friday, September 26th and Saturday, September 27th on the Nazareth campus, 3427 Gull Road, Nazareth (Kalamazoo), Mich. The days are hosted by the Nazareth Association and more information can be found at www.nazarethassociation.org.

For more photos and a feature on the history of the sisters in Kalamazoo, see page 7.

Parishes begin migrant ministry outreach

During the summer months close to 20,000 migrant farmworkers from Texas, Florida and parts of Central America come to the diocese for seasonal work. Parishes form groups to visit some of the 300 different camps to welcome the workers and provide fun activities for the children. Additionally the diocese welcomes members of the religious communities and visiting clergy who aid in sacramental preparation and in the celebration of the Mass. Bishop Bradley celebrates the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Augustine Cathedral for the children of migrant families and also celebrates Mass at one of the migrant camps during the summer months.

For more information on volunteering for migrant ministry contact:
Veronica Rodriguez, 269-903-0197;
vrodiguez@dioceseofkalamazoo.org



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Happy 5th Anniversary to Bishop Bradley!

On June 5th, Bishop Paul J. Bradley celebrates his 5th Anniversary as Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. You can send Happy anniversary wishes to: officeofthebishop@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.
Read more on page 12



Seminarians are hitting the road again

Diocesan seminarians kick-off third annual walking pilgrimage

The diocesan seminarians will embark on their third annual diocesan pilgrimage this month covering territory in the Southwest and Southeast deaneries. The one-week pilgrimage will begin with Mass with Bishop Bradley at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, June 14th. The seminarians then will embark on their journey beginning with a visit to Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsberg. The theme will once again be *To the Heart of the Diocese through the Heart of Christ*.

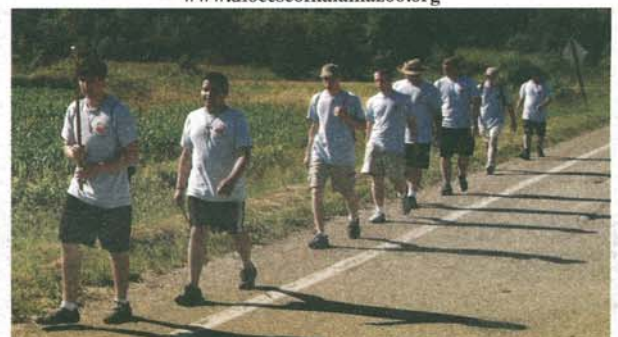
"Christ lives in the Eucharist and in the people, so we are making this diocesan pilgrimage, visiting the people in their churches, really to Christ," said Rev. Chris Derda, Director of Vocations and Ongoing Priestly Formation.

This is the third year for the seminarian pilgrimage which has been previously held in the Central and Lakeshore deaneries. Each day the seminarians walk from parish to parish and enjoy fraternity with each other as well as fellowship with many parishioners throughout the diocese.

"The seminarians got to know each other and learn how to cooperate together on a major project," said Fr. Derda. "Learning to collaborate will only help them when they become priests, God willing." Visiting the parishes in the diocese also had the benefit of raising vocation awareness planting the seeds for further vocations.

"The pilgrimage gives people a chance to meet our diocesan seminarians as a group at many of our parishes. Many people have never seen a group of seminarians before. It gives them hope for the future of the Church," said Fr. Derda. "God is giving us vocations, but we are just not aware of it."

Check the diocesan website for detailed schedule.
www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org



Sisters Celebrate 125 years in Kalamazoo

Reflection on the history of the sisters in the diocese:



On July 6, 1889, 11 Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Kalamazoo at the invitation of the Right Reverend Francis O'Brien, pastor of St. Augustine Parish, to help start a hospital.

Led by Mother Margaret Mary Lacy, the Sisters arrived with few personal possessions and a profound commitment to a philosophy of caring and giving that remains unchanged today, 125 years later.

Prior to the creation of the hospital people who were homeless and ill were sometimes placed in the local jail for care because there were no other options. Msgr. O'Brien first appealed to the city aldermen for a hospital, but the request was unheeded. Bishop Borgess of Detroit provided \$5,000 from his mother's estate to begin this new enterprise.



A \$5,000 donation from Bishop Borgess helped transform a mansion on Portage St. into a 20-bed hospital that soon bear his name.



Before they could offer nursing care, the Sisters set to work, scrubbing and cleaning, moving furniture and getting rooms ready for the December 8, 1889, official opening of Kalamazoo's first hospital.

The Sisters made up in zeal what they lacked in experience, according to an unpublished manuscript by Dr. Robert Wanke. They cleaned and painted, prepared meals, did laundry and sat up nights with patients when needed — everything but stoke coal in the furnace.

They raised a garden and managed cows and chickens to supplement the food supply, and over time the hospital grew to 20 beds. In 1917 a new Borgess was opened on Gull Road at the present location. The old hospital was closed and with large expansion at the Gull Road site all services were consolidated as 250-bed health ministry.

The zeal exhibited by the sisters spread through the community and within a month of their arrival several young girls entered the congregation. "Their parents prepared them and groomed them for this new vocation," said Sister Irene Waldmann. "The Sisters were looked upon as the kind people who got things done for the community."



Pictured above: "New Borgess" was opened in 1917 due to the growing number of patients. Borgess grew into a 100-bed hospital with two locations in Kalamazoo.



Pictured left: an old postcard of Nazareth Academy. Pictured above: "Albers Hall, activities building, and Immaculata Hall, student residence" is the text on the back of this postcard. The outdoor amphitheatre is also visible, as well as two additional residence halls which were named Madonna (Connors) and Dillion.

Their community spirit can be traced back to the founding of the Congregation of the Sisters of Joseph in LePuy, France, by the Rev. Jean Pierre Medaille and Bishop Henry de Maupas. By the late 1600's the Sisters were engaged in Christian Ministry in dioceses in France, in schools, hospitals, orphanages and institutes for the deaf.

The local congregation traces in origins to Watertown, N.Y., where Mother Margaret Lacy established a foundation. Nine years later Mother Margaret and the Watertown Sisters arrived in Kalamazoo. The Sisters had not been in Kalamazoo for long before some were called to Monroe, Mich., to assume the responsibility for the St. Francis Home for Orphan Boys.

Four days after arriving, 80 orphaned boys were brought to the home. In 1891, back in Kalamazoo, Msgr. O'Brien asked the sisters to take charge of the LeFevre Institute, a parochial school established in 1851. When the need arose for safe, reasonably priced housing for women who worked in factories and shops, the sisters converted a cottage on hospital grounds from a novitiate to St. Ann Home for Working Women. In 1897 the large brick building on the former Humphrey Farm on Gull Road was converted to the site for the Motherhouse and a new school for girls, Nazareth Academy. In 1902, Barbour Hall for Boys was opened. In 1924 Nazareth College was established and it offered a four-year liberal arts curriculum. The sisters also helped in the St. Anthony Home, the first residence by Catholic Sisters in the United States to serve mentally disadvantaged children.

In 2007, the Sisters of St. Joseph in Nazareth joined with six other groups of Sisters of St. Joseph to form the Congregation of St. Joseph. Today, with nearly 600 Sisters and 500 non-vowed associates, the Congregation serves thousands of neighbors each year through its network of sponsored and individual ministries and partnerships in the communities. In Kalamazoo, the Sisters still sponsor what is now Borgess Health and Transformations Spirituality Center, which offers opportunities for spiritual reflection and growth.



SISTER ANN WILLIAM, JEAN MACVICAR Typing, 1963



Barbour Hall boys baseball team in 1909.



"Our philosophy remains the same as it always has," said Sister Irene. "Father Medaille, our founder, called us to care for the dear neighbor."

The legacy of caring carried forth by the first 11 sisters who came to Kalamazoo, continues today. "The sisters have a long history of looking for what is needed in the community and providing for that need," said Sister Judy Schroeder. "We still look for those needs and increasingly partner with others in the community to meet them — for us it is a way to continue neighboring anew."