

THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY
and
HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

- In July 1910 the Daughters of Charity established a new province in the United States in St. Louis, Missouri
- It was from St. Louis that two sisters were sent at the request of Fathers Finney and LeSage, CM to open Holy Trinity School in the fall of 1914.
- Holy Trinity was the first school opened by the DC's of the St. Louis province. Sr. Clare Hoch was the principal and taught the primary grades. She was assisted by Sr. Mary Michael Ryan who had the older children. There were 32 students that first year.
- Sr. Mary Michael was known to bake her delicious Strawberry cake to reward the winning team in the weekly Friday baseball game.
- The two sisters lived at St. Paul Hospital, which was on Bryan Street, with other DC's when they first arrived. They traveled to school each day in a horse drawn carriage.
- The school was a small wooden bldg that had been purchased from the Highland Park school board and moved to the 4200 block of Holland Avenue.
- The sisters later relocated from St. Paul to a house on Holland next to the school
- Sister Genevieve Tyson succeeded Sr. Clare as principal in 1917 (although Sr. Clare returned again in 1937 for another 3 yr term), and Sister Mary Michael Ryan who came originally as a teacher assumed the principal role for the 1920-21 school year.
- In the early days it was customary to change principals every three years. It wasn't that the sister was worn out, but rather it was the custom that the role of local superior (Sister Servant is the term we use) went with being principal and the DC rules set the term of the Sister Servant at 3 years.
- It was in the 1920's that the sisters moved into a wood frame house at 3811 Oak Lawn (the present location of the Vincentians' residence); in 1941 that house was moved to 3822 Gilbert which is very close to where the pastoral center is today.
- Because of increasing enrollment, a larger school was built in 1925 and located behind the sisters' house. There were about 8 sisters working in the school by this time and several lay teachers. One of those sisters was Sr. Adelaide Curtis. Unlike the principal, sisters assigned to teach at the school often stayed much longer than three years. Sr. Adelaide taught first grade from 1925 – 1936.
- Through the years there was a constant expansion of the school facilities – major renovations took place in 1947 and again in 1956.
- In 1953 a memorable event for the Daughters was the building of a new brick residence to replace the old wood frame building that had served long and well since the 1920's. Each sister had not only her own private room but her own bathroom as well – something unheard of at the time for the Daughters who were accustomed to living in dormitories and using common bathrooms. The story is told that when the superiors from St. Louis came to look at the plans for the new convent they were upset with the ideas of private rooms and baths for the sisters and went to see the pastor. He politely but firmly told them that it was the parish that was building the convent and it would be built the way the parish wanted. Today this building serves as the Pastoral Center and daily mass is celebrated in the Daughters chapel.
- It was under the leadership of principal Sister Rita Connolly that Holy Trinity was one of the first elementary schools in the diocese of Dallas to be accredited by the state of Texas(1963)
- The number of Daughters assigned to the school increased as enrollment demanded and there was the addition of dedicated lay staff. By the time of the school's 50th anniversary in 1964, there were 11 Daughters of Charity and the role of the principal had become a full time one – she no longer was also one of the teachers. Seven lay teachers were on staff – some full time, others part time – and the enrollment was about 400 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

- The Daughters encouraged the development of extra-curricula activities and enjoyed moderating the Altar Boys (no girls in those days!), Children of Mary Sodality and taking their students on visits to the sick and poor. They cheered for the athletic teams and supported the establishment of scouting programs for boys and girls.
- Many of the students took advantage of the after school tap, ballet and tumbling classes taught by Mrs. Georgia Babb who was associated with the school for more than 40 years. Through the example of the students, their parents and others in the parish Mrs. Babb converted to Catholicism in the 1970's and was later invited to become an affiliate of the Daughters of Charity because of the high degree to which she exemplified the spirituality and service of Vincent DePaul and Louise de Marillac (the co-founders of the Daughters).
- A significant support for Daughters and the school came from the Mothers Club which was established in 1935. Current parishioner, Martha Brooks, served a term as president of this organization. The club was begun by a group of mothers from the school working in concert with Sr. Loretta Tobin, principal, and Father Walter Quinn, pastor. Their first project, which perdured for decades was the establishment of the hot lunch program. The mothers had fund raising projects throughout the years and did much to provide extra books, other learning materials and other equipment the school otherwise could not have afforded. The principals always worked very closely with the Mothers Club.
- For its first 50 years the school served predominantly students who were Caucasian, middle and upper middle class, and who lived within 6 miles of the school. By 1978 the school was attended predominantly by minority groups (79% Hispanic, 21% African-American, Oriental, and Anglo) who came from 13 different parishes in addition to Holy Trinity, many families were from a lower socio-economic strata. Enrollment dropped to about 230 students in K-8 – the kindergarten which was started in 1947 and closed in 1971 was re-opened.
- Many of the students since the late 70's come from families whose parents work nearby or in downtown or from parishes where the Catholic school has closed (Cathedral, Guadalupe, St. Edwards, St. Peters, etc).
- With the lack of young women entering the community, the number of Daughters in the school gradually decreased. The administration of the school was turned over to the laity in 1985 with the departure of principal Sr. Mary Ann Bartkowitz. Sisters Audrey and Augustine, DC continued teaching in the school until May 1987. The first lay principal was Patty Sherrod who taught in the school from 1977 to 1981 and was handpicked by Sister Mary Ann as her successor because of her understanding of the Vincentian spirit.
- Entwined with the lives of the students over 73 years, are the lives of the 112 Daughters of Charity who were privileged to have been assigned to Holy Trinity...some for as short as a few months and some for many, many years. Some sisters who started in the school moved into other ministries in the parish.
- Do you wonder where one of the Daughters who taught you might be today, December 2005? Many are singing with the angels ... but some are still around, such as:

Sr. Fidelis Malloy	Evansville, IN Ministry of Prayer
Sr. Rebecca Hite	Evacuated from New Orleans in KATRINA; volunteering at Providence Hospital in Waco, TX
Sr. Mary Moran	Osaka, Japan ...has been a missionary in Japan for 50 yrs +
Sr. Mary Angelyn Pera	St. Louis, MO Ministry of Prayer
Sr. Geraldine Simonds	Coppell, TX volunteers at St Ann Parish & St. Joseph Village
Sr. Ann Schedler	Evansville, IN does office work in a Day Care Center
Sr. Catherine Junkin	Cleaning and overseeing repairs to a DC house in New

	Orleans damaged by KATRINA
Sr. Jane Walz	St. Louis, MO develops programs and does research on relationship between spiritual care and physical healing
Sr. Lucretia Burns	San Antonio, TX teaches GED classes for public school district and also in a Correctional Facility
Sr. Loretto Gettemeier	St. Louis, MO gives talks and does retreat work especially around Vincentian themes; founder of TRUE FATHER program – helps men in their role of being a good father to their child.
Sr. Maureen Bannister	St. Louis, MO teaches Theology and English at Cardinal Ritter Prep
Sr. Mary Jo LaFond	Evacuated from New Orleans in KATRINA and living with her sister in Opelousas, LA
Sr. Romana McDermott (Joan Marie)	St. Louis, MO assisting with Pastoral Care of our sisters in the Skilled Nursing facility
Sr. Edith Thompson	Emmitsburg, MD serving as a docent at the Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton
Sr. Hilary(Claire) Roach	Los Altos Hills, CA Ministry of Prayer
Sr. Angelita(Anne)Bellan	Left the Daughters of Charity some years ago, but then worked in our hospitals in California as VP of Mission (helping staff know, understand and appreciate the charism and philosophy of the Daughters of Charity). Now lives in St. Louis, MO and works for the Catholic Health Assoc.
Sr. Mary Carol Mautemps	Evansville, IN assists with the needs of infirmed sisters
Sr. Johanno Gainey (Margaret Ann)	Los Altos Hills, CA in charge of the Province Archives
Sr. Rolanda Dupuy (Marguerite)	Left the Daughters in the 70's; married and was teaching French in a New Orleans school at the time KATRINA hit; do not know her whereabouts at this time.
Sr. Jean Thomas Dwyer	Dallas, TX runs a Homework Assistance/Tutoring Program at Cathedral Guadalupe and works as a Benefits Counselor at a HUD apt. complex for low income elderly
Sr. Richardine Kauss (Barbara)	Has been a missionary in the Congo (Africa) for more than 25 years
Sr. Enrica Miles (Kathleen)	Lives in Gould, AR and is in charge of two priestless parishes – one in Star City and the other in Grady
Sr. Baptiste Basile (Mildred)	Left the Daughters in the 70's and married. Lives in Houston and has been involved in Religious Education
Sr. Rosa(Marion) Purpura	Evansville, IN Ministry of Prayer
Sr. Marguerite Gorman (Peggy)	Left the Daughters many years ago. She is married, lives in California and works for the Girl Scouts of America
Sr. Carol Barringhaus	Left the Daughters many years ago but remained in Dallas for a long time teaching in DISD; moved to St. Louis to care for her mother who has since died
Sr. Joann Lukefahr	St. Louis, MO works in the Pastoral Care at DePaul Health Ctr
Sr. Denise Duplessis	Lives in Odessa, TX and works as a Pastoral Minister in a parish in Midland, TX
Sr. Patricia deKeersgieter	Left the Daughters in the mid 70's
Sr. Judith Hebert	St. Louis, MO works for the Archdiocesan School System as a

	Educational Diagnostician
Sr. Josephine Jauchler	Evacuated from New Orleans in KATRINA and living in a Skilled Nursing Facility in St. Louis
Sr. Teresa Daly	St. Louis, MO works as the Director of the Vincentian Service Corps (a lay volunteer program) and is the Vocation Directress for the St. Louis Province
Sr. Kevin McCarthy (Karen)	Left the Daughters in the 70's, married and lives in St. Louis
Sr. Helen Brewer	Austin, TX is a registered lobbyist doing legislative advocacy in the area of healthcare
Sr. Rita Downey	St. Louis, MO has been the Provincial Secretary for the West Central Province for more than 10 years; volunteers in prison ministry
Sr. Clotilda Brandt	Left the Daughters in 70's and lives in Iowa; has been battling breast cancer for several years
Sr. Kathleen Murray	Edinburg, TX works as Catholic Elementary School Principal
Sr. Mary Teresa Huber	St. Louis, MO Ministry of Prayer
Sr. Mary Patrice Murray	El Paso, TX works as Catholic Elementary School Principal
Sr. Rosa Lee Kramer	Lives in Edinburg, TX on the weekends with Sr. Kathleen Murray; lives in Rio Grande City, TX during the week and teaches in a Catholic Elementary School
Sr. Mary Louise Happich	St. Louis, MO works as a Receptionist in our Provincial Office Building
Sr. Audrey Bergfeld	St. Louis, MO helps care for the needs of our senior sisters and volunteers doing office work in the Provincial Office Building
Sr. Mary Ann Bartkowitz	Left the Daughters in the 80's and safely evacuated New Orleans, LA where she was a teacher in the Orleans Parish Prison System when KATRINA hit; has a temporary teaching position in Perryville, MO

This history and information on the Daughters of Charity at Holy Trinity School was compiled by Sister Jean Thomas Dwyer at the request of Anthony and Sheila Madigan Levatino for the Friends of Holy Trinity School, Inc. Materials used include documents in the Archives of the Daughters of Charity, St. Louis, MO; personal recollections of some of the Daughters; and from the book Daughters of the church: A Popular History of the Daughters of Charity in the United States 1809 – 1987.