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**GOLDEN JUBILEE FOR ST. MARY COLLEGE IN LEAVENWORTH, KANS.**

**Mr. MANSFIELD.** Mr. President, as a Senator from the State of Montana, one might wonder why I am interested in St. Mary College in Leavenworth, Kans. It just happens that a great many of the students attending St. Mary College come from Montana. Since the early days when Montana was a territory, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth have contributed much to development of our State in the fields of education, health, and in other areas. So we look upon Montana as being St. Mary College West. I happen to be a member of the Presidents' Council of St. Mary along with my distinguished colleague, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. PEARSON).

I should like at this time to make a few remarks about this outstanding educational institution.

St. Mary College in Leavenworth, Kans., is celebrating its golden jubilee year as a private, Catholic, liberal arts college for women.

Owned and operated by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, St. Mary is the only women's college in Kansas. It is distinguished by its outstanding faculty.

Although St. Mary as a college is celebrating its 50th year, St. Mary as an educational institution dates back to 1859.

In 1858, Bishop John Baptist Miege, Vicar Apostolic of the Indian Territory, asked a handful of Catholic Sisters to set out by boat from Nashville, Tenn., up the Missouri River, to open a school for the education of the young ladies in the Indian Territory. In Kansas, on the banks of the Missouri, was Leavenworth—a vital pioneer town, gateway to the New West. The Sisters, who organized as the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, decided this would be the ideal

place for their school. In 1859, the doors opened to the St. Mary Academy for Young Ladies.

From the origins of the academy came St. Mary College—first as a junior college in 1923 and then as a 4-year liberal arts college in 1930, still for women. Now there are nine major buildings with excellent modern facilities, on a 240-acre campus that is one of the most beautiful in the country. Majors are offered in 20 fields, taught by 54 outstanding faculty members, over half of whom hold doctorates. Sisters of Charity and priests make up about half of the faculty; lay men and women the rest. Nearly 3,000 undergraduate degrees have been awarded by St. Mary College in its 50-year history.

Since their beginning as a religious order in 1858, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth have established nearly 100 institutions—elementary and secondary schools, homes for children and the aged, and hospitals—in the United States and in Bolivia and Peru. Over 700 Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth still serve the people of the world through their work in schools, hospitals, homes, and social services.

In 1869, the Sisters of Charity came to Montana and established one of their first missions outside of Kansas. Since that time they have served the people of Montana in health care and educational apostolates. Also 25 percent of the total Sisters of Charity community is made up of Sisters from Montana. Montana students were among the first to attend St. Mary College and since its inception in 1923 some 750 Montana women have enrolled in St. Mary College.

The dedicated service of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth has made St. Mary College a hallmark in the education of women. We offer our congratulations and salute the Sisters of Charity, the administrators, faculty, students, and alumnae in the golden jubilee year of St. Mary College.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the *RECORD* an article published in the *Kansas City Star* of April 28, 1974, entitled "Saint Mary: Oldest School For Girls in Kansas."

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD ST. MARY COLLEGE IS STILL A FRONTIER SCHOOL**

(By Sara Baker)

On the southern edge of the city of Leavenworth, 14 miles north of the Kansas Turnpike on U.S. 73, a small, green and white sign points to one of the state's oldest institutions.

A quick left turn takes you through the gates of Saint Mary College, an educational institution that has its origins in a time when Kansas was called "bloody" and statehood was more than three years away.

Today, a winding drive, partly paved with brick, leads to an administration building erected in 1870. The 240-acre campus is dotted with large trees. Grassy lawns, spring-fed lakes, formal gardens and turn-of-the-century gazebos add a picture-book dimension. Buildings are a compatible blend of old and new, mostly of red brick.

On a spring day, groups of young women laden with books enjoy a warm spot on the south side of a building or a tree. They may be wearing faded blue denim, cut-off jeans or long skirts. In the halls, clusters of girls chat between classes. Their faces reflect a happy attitude of relaxation, openness and optimism.

There are 480 of these girls and they attend the oldest school for girls in Kansas and the state's only remaining 4-year college for women. Saint Mary is 115 years old, founded in 1859.

In 1858, Bishop John Baptist Miege, Vicar-Apostolic of Indian Territory, realized the need for Christian education on the frontier. His call to "come North as soon as possible" was heard in Tennessee by Mother Xavier Ross, superior of the Sisters of Charity of Nashville.

By Nov. 1, 1858, five professed Sisters, two postulants, a novice and an orphaned girl, left the genteel security of Nashville for a frontier town filled with hunters, traders, soldiers and "border ruffians" who exploited the pro and antislavery settlers.

After an 11-day journey over frozen ground and up an ice-choked Missouri River, the little group of women in their peculiar garb arrived in Leavenworth, attracting scant attention from the wharf-side loungers. But by the time the second group of Sisters arrived, Dec. 1, 1858, townspeople knew the Sisters were there to teach and serve.

Back in Nashville, Mother Xavier, a tiny, dark-eyed woman who had run away from her Methodist home to enter a Catholic convent, disposed of the remaining property of the Nashville order. After paying debts, she and Sister Joanna Bruner left for the frontier with \$9 in their pockets.

Stranded on the steamer, "Ella," in the frozen Missouri River below Jefferson City, the Sisters were delayed for several days. They finally arrived in Leavenworth, Feb. 21, 1859.

Although the original Sisters were already teaching a group of young boys, Mother Xavier, with the help of Bishop Miege, rented a small cottage on Kickapoo Street. This was to be the boarding school, "St. Mary's Academy for Young Ladies."

The process of educating girls and young women has been continued by the Sisters of Charity without interruption since 1859.

By 1860 a new brick building was ready to house the boarders, who came from Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas. The school was erected for \$6,000 and tuition was \$96 for a 5-month session. Because of the growing demand for a "finishing" school education, in 1870 the academy was moved to the campus where Saint Mary College now stands.

If your vision of a Catholic women's college includes tolling of bells, the swish of black-clad nuns passing through sepulchral halls and students dressed in demure uniforms primly going back and forth from chapel to classroom, a visit to Saint Mary will shatter that image.

Today, although almost half of the staff and administrative body are members of the founding order, it is sometimes hard to tell a lay teacher from a Sister. And in some instances, it's hard to tell a Sister from a student.

But if the outward appearance of the community bears little resemblance to that of Mother Xavier's day, the purposes and ideals of education remain much the same—that is, "to combine that which is useful and necessary with that which is solid and ornamental and to develop moral character."

"We are concerned today with intellectual development of the student, at the same time encouraging the growth of personality and integrity," said Sister Mary Janet McGilley, the gentle yet dynamic 49-year-old president. "In a teaching and learning commu-

nity, students need to know how to interact in that community."

Sister Mary Janet, whose brown hair, touched with gray, frames a youthful face, calls herself a Kansas transplant. A native of Kansas City, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James P. McGilley, she attended St. Teresa's College, now Avila, but received her bachelor's degree from Saint Mary College with majors in English and drama. She earned a master's degree in English from Boston College and a doctorate in English literature from Fordham University, New York.

Saint Mary College is still a church-oriented school, the president pointed out. She believes the basic strengths of the Judeo-Christian tradition inspire confidence in human nature.

"A value is placed on every human being," she said, "whether Jew or Greek or male or female." This value orientation is relative to a moral commitment. You have a sense of something bigger than you are.

"There's no such thing as a genuine education without a theological dimension. If you leave out the knowledge of God and all that He is and means, then you don't really look at the whole of what man can know and be."

The students do question, the president said.

"We try to provide a supportive and open role where they can test themselves and their beliefs.

"Young people talk more about God and sex than anything else," she said, smiling.

Freedom of thought and action coupled with responsibility prevails on the campus.

Cars are permitted for students other than first semester freshmen. Campus hours are adjusted to grade level, with juniors and seniors free to come and go at will.

Because 3.2 beer is legal for 18-year-olds in Kansas, it is allowed on the campus.

"If you're to live within the laws of the state there's no better place to start than in college," a faculty member said.

As one of 172 senior college women presidents in the nation, Sister Mary Janet is excited about the future of women's colleges and particularly of Saint Mary.

"We're no longer on the defensive," she said. "Even when the coeducational bandwagon started rolling a few years ago, resulting in the demise of scores of single-sex colleges, we viewed our situation not as a predicament but as an opportunity. Student opinion concurred with the governing and advisory bodies in the decision to maintain Saint Mary as a women's college.

"Schools for women were originally on the frontier and we're ready to reaffirm our faith in this kind of education as still a new frontier in higher education for women."

The president's office with its 14-foot ceilings, massive doors and parquet floor is in St. Mary's Hall, the first building on the Muncie land south of the city. Later wings were added which became Xavier Hall and Mead Hall.

Through the years the Sisters of Charity recognized the continuing need for change. In 1923, Mother Mary Berchmans Cannan opened a junior college with 20 students. One of these, Sister Mary Ernestine Whitmore, former chairman of the English Department, was the first Sister to enter and finish at the college. She later received her doctorate from Catholic University in Washington.

"In the beginning, the idea of propriety was strong," Sister Ernestine said, "but the goal soon became one of educating the whole person, socially, spiritually and academically."

Sister Ernestine, now retired, sitting in a comfortable chair in the attractively decorated social room of St. Mary's Hall, recalled some of the rules of conduct that applied when she was a student.

"We were well protected. Thursday after-

noon we could go into town, but always accompanied by a sister. We could have callers from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Boy friends sometimes came, posing as relatives. Of course, we had to go to daily mass with the Sisters.

"Black shoes, hose and blouse—white on Sunday, were the accepted mode of dress. But that didn't last too long. Sweaters and skirts were soon the order of the day. But we did wear our mortar boards and long black capes to all academic affairs and to religious services.

"This was to impress on the girls the dignity and privilege of scholarship. I guess it did make the freshmen feel a sense of importance—that they were really a part of the college.

"Truth has always been held very high as exemplified in the motto of Saint Mary 'Veritas et scientia'—virtue and knowledge.

"Today it may be reversed a little bit," she said, her eyes twinkling.

From a course in tapestry to one in transactional analysis is a long way. To fulfill the curriculum needs and demands of more students, Saint Mary became a 4-year college in 1930 with programs of studies leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Science, Music and Music Education.

"One of the many things we have going for us is 100 years of experience," Sister Mary Janet said. "But we can't be complacent. We must re-examine our goals and shape them to the new world in which women will be living and coping. We can't just sit back and say that everything is all right, but we are in a strong position to do a good job."

The president believes there should be a variety of options open to the college-bound woman, and being able to attend a women's college should be one of them.

What is the key to the success of a women's college? Sister Mary Janet continued:

"I believe that the one thing that really helps is to get to know and like one's self and to develop self-confidence through the friendships that can be made on a single-sex campus.

"We realize, of course, that lasting friendships with other women are made on co-educational campuses, but we notice this factor is especially strong at a college for women.

"There is some validity to the criticism that there are not many men around, so it is an artificial environment, but is any campus a part of the real world? The dating game creates pressures, but of course there is no way to avoid the mating ritual. But the game can be more real and authentic if students have a sense of who they are.

"The professional staff members acting in positions of importance provide crucial role models. When a young student sees an older woman in a role she believes in and has dedicated her life to, the student finds a source of strength that is important to her future as a person, or as a person to be of service to others.

"Statistics indicate there are 27 professional women to every 1,000 women students compared to 143 professional men to every 1,000, so the role model is more visible in a college like Saint Mary."

The president feels the school has its share of normal social problems that can be dealt with on the counseling level. In her nine years of tenure she has expelled one student.

A changing, expanding curriculum makes Saint Mary an outpost of innovation.

In the interim section of the year, the four weeks after the Christmas holidays, students under the guidance of Sister Carol Hinds, met once a week with prisoners from the Kansas State Prison at Lansing.

"The class was held in the administration building of the prison so the men came halfway out and the girls went half-way in," Sister Carol, an English instructor, ex-

plained. "We studied literature written by men who were prisoners themselves including Dostoevsky, Dickens, e.e. Cummings and Eldridge Cleaver.

"I'm not sure how much the men got out of the course, but the girls seemed to think it was a rewarding experience."

Other interim courses have included study abroad and in Mexico, New York City, Arizona and New Mexico as well as work in Mexico as well as work in nearby communities and in Kansas City's inner city. Some of these interim programs often lead to summer jobs.

Music is a big part of life at the school. Students and teachers perform in groups that play everything from the classics through the gamut of jazz, swing and rock. A combo of nuns, "The Remnants," gained nationwide fame on the televised "I Love Lucy" show in 1971.

Sister Ernestine pointed out that Saint Mary has long been influenced by the University of Kansas.

"From the beginning," she said, "the curriculum was based on that of the University of Kansas. We were guided by the university, aided in finding teachers and we used the same textbooks."

Like other small colleges, Saint Mary is having difficulties. Financing and declining enrollment are the big problems.

"Saint Mary has always operated in the black," said James E. Burke, a Kansas City lawyer and vice-chairman of the President's Council, an advisory board to the school. "This is because of contributed services by the nuns, but as the number of lay faculty increases the harder it will be to meet our budget."

Burke is optimistic, nevertheless, about the future of the college.

"With a broadening curriculum in liberal arts and a strong recruitment program," he said, "I'm confident this school will continue to meet the needs of young women for years to come."

Why do young women choose Saint Mary?

Diana Furrow, 18, a freshman from Gladstone, said it was because it was not too far from home, the campus was small and the tuition reasonable.

"The thing that really made up my mind, even after visiting coed schools, was the friendliness of the girls. I felt right at home immediately."

Saint Mary is a hub in a circle of academic institutions. In Lawrence, the school maintains a house for resident students who want to take courses at the university. But the house at 1434 Engle Street has other functions.

"It's a good place for an 'overnight relaxer,'" Sister Marie Brinkman, house director-in-residence, said. "Any Saint Mary girl can go there for a weekend just to get away, to enrich her college years with university study and to have access to university life."

Saint Mary's proximity to Ft. Leavenworth has resulted in a certain cosmopolitanism. Wives of officers at the Command and General Staff College enroll in courses and last year one of the women taught Russian history. Many officer's daughters have been students at the college.

There are 44 students from 16 countries attending Saint Mary College with Thailand represented by 10.

JoAnn Taylor, 21, a senior from Denver, said she came to Saint Mary for all the wrong reasons.

"I thought boys were better than girls when I was in high school. Here I've learned the value of womanhood and I see myself as a person who has a choice."

She admits she could use a little more intellectual contact with men but feels she'll get that when she enters law school next fall.

Another student suggested that girls sometimes use the women's college as an excuse if they don't have a glamorous social life.

"They think if they went to a large university they'd have tons of dates—but would they?"

Another joked about the dating game. "You just have to be a little more ingenious."

One thing is for certain. Men do come to the campus. At last spring's formal dance more than 300 couples danced, ate, and drank Kansas's 3.2 beer at one of the most successful of all campus activities.

Joyce Jones, 21, a senior from Mount Vernon, Ill., a few weeks ago draped a huge sign in the dining hall reminding students it was just "100 days until the spring dance."

Despite the low costs, \$1,150 for tuition, \$550 for board, \$300 for room and \$100 for general fees, Saint Mary is operating below capacity. There is room for 80 to 100 more resident students.

And what of the total results achieved since the brave band of Sisters arrived on the river bank in 1857?

Well, an Order has evolved numbering 733 Sisters and their work has spread Westward from Leavenworth into 10 states including California.

Today the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth operate eight hospitals with a total of more than 2,000 beds; two homes for children; one home for the aged; 35 grade schools; eight high schools; one college; and missions in Peru and Bolivia.

In 1940, a red brick, Georgian-styled structure was built on the college grounds. It is the Motherhouse where the Sisters work, study and eventually retire, still under the guiding spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul who founded the original order, the Daughters of Charity, in 1633.