

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL ERECTED IN 1957

In 1956 there were 10 parochial schools in Duluth, a city of 18 Catholic churches and only 8 other schools in 67 Catholic parishes outside of the city. Most of them were considerably larger than Immaculate Conception.

Building costs had also risen sharply in the postwar years but in spite of these handicaps, the congregation of Pine City Immaculate Conception parish under the leadership of Father McEnery decided that it was time they had a parochial school for their children.

Construction was completed in April, 1957 at a total cost of \$180,400. This did not include school equipment and a convent to house the teaching sisters.

The school was dedicated on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 1957 and was given the name of St. Mary's.

When school opened on September 3, there were 127 youngsters enrolled in its six grades. The faculty consisted of Benedictine Sisters of Duluth with Sister M. Marcella as principal and Sisters M. Thomasine, M. Michelle, and M. Evarista as instructors.

In the fall of 1958 the 7th grade was added to the school curriculum and a year later the eighth grade was introduced. The enrollment had jumped to 151 pupils.

A sizeable library was provided in 1962. Enrollment peaked in 1963 at 160 pupils. Grades 7 and 8 were dropped in 1966 and enrollment decreased to less than 100 students.

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St. Mary's School.

In later years, St. Mary's students walked down the street at noon to take part in the hot lunch program offered at the public school as well as band lessons.

When Sisters Luella and Lois Ann were transferred at the end of the 1982 spring term, it marked the end of an era where Benedictine nuns operated St. Mary's school.

The school will begin operation this fall with a staff of lay teachers but will continue ~~to operate~~ to offer the quality of education that it has since it became an important part of the Pine City educational scene in 1957.

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