

This Brochure contains a  
Pictorial Remembrance  
of  
St. Francis De Sales Parishioners Gift  
of the  
New Convent to the Sisters  
on this  
Christmas





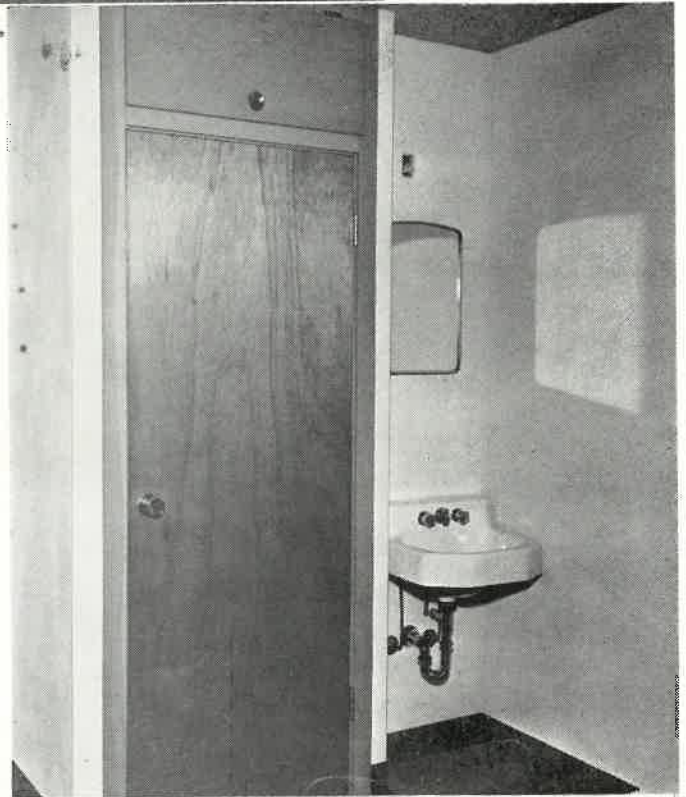
### CONVENT CHAPEL

Since Christ is the center of life for all religious, the Church grants permission for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to live in their very home. The Chapel in the new Convent is located in the southwest part of the building on the first floor. The sanctuary is finished in walnut panels and the modernistic altar in native oak. The floor has wall to wall carpeting and new oak kneelers will fill this space. All the furnishings in the Chapel have been donated by the parishioners and bronze plaques indicate their remembrance.



The new convent contains 16 private rooms complete with desk, chair, bed and chest of drawers. All these furnishings have been given by the parishioners in special donations and a bronze plaque on each door indicates a remembrance in the Sisters' prayers.

Each room has a built-in wardrobe together with lavatory and medicine cabinet.





The convent kitchen is complete in every detail with two built-in ovens, spacious cabinets and modern facilities.

At the present time the following Sisters are teaching here at St. Francis De Sales grade school and Central Catholic High School:

Sister Mary Sylvestra OSF	Sister Mary Andrene OSF
Sister Mary Devota OSF	Sister Mary Donalda OSF
Sister Mary Michael OSF	Sister Thomas Mary OSF
Sister Clare of Assissi OSF	Sister Mary Gabriella OSF
Sister Bernice Ann OSF	Sister Mary Marchell OSF
Sister Mary Arnold OSF	

The following are in various convents from St. Francis Parish

**ASPIRANTS**

Patricia Buchheit  
Bernice Lansing  
Maxine Lavell

**NOVICES**

Norma Jean Bohr	.....	Sister Mary Damiano OSF
Geraldine Lansing	.....	Sister Marie Assunta OSF
Mildred Leuenberger	.....	Sister Mary Willamene OSF
Elaine Gehling	.....	Sister Mary Bibiana OSF
Arlene Bohr	.....	Sister Anthony Claret OSF



EXTERIOR VIEW OF NEW CONVENT

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, DUBUQUE, IOWA

Pauline Hemesath .....	Sister Mary Antonia
Mary Becker .....	Sister Mary Adelia
* Anna Bohr .....	Sister Mary Antonine
Gertrude Zweibohmer .....	Sister Mary Herminigild
Rose Bohr .....	Sister Mary Rosamunde
Elizabeth Bohr .....	Sister Mary Solana
Marie Bohr .....	Sister Mary Doris
Mathilda Huinker .....	Sister Mary Remi
Lucy Hemesath .....	Sister Mary Caroline
Marie Hemesath .....	Sister Mary Dolora
Rose Hemesath .....	Sister Mary Lucia
Helen Bohr .....	Sister Mary Rosella
Julia Remke .....	Sister Mary Carmella
Victoria Funke .....	Sister Mary Giovanni
Marcella Brockamp .....	Sister Mary Margaret Francis
Marcie Dessel .....	Sister Mary Frances Joseph
Eunice Gerleman .....	Sister Mary Edith

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

Anna Funke .....	Sister Mary Avica
* Mary Timp .....	Sister Mary Fridolin
Barbara Funke .....	Sister Mary Chrysantha
Caroline Scheidel .....	Sister Mary Ambrose
Agnes Funke .....	Sister Mary Zeno
* Deceased	

ORDER OF ST. BENEDICT, ATCHISON, KANSAS

Olivia Lansing .....	Sister Mary Ignatia
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SISTERS OF THE HOLY GHOST, TECHNY, ILLINOIS

Helen Hemesath .....	Sister Mary Luke
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Thomasine Dullard .....	Sister Marie Goretti PBVM
Margaret Schildmeyer .....	Sister Elizabeth Ann OSF
Helen Hemesath .....	Sister Tekawitha, A Marist Sister
Marie Bohr .....	Sister Mary Antoine OSF
Aquilina Timp .....	Sister Mary Selina OSF
Norma Jean Holthaus .....	Sister Mary Nathan OSF
Mary Klisart .....	Sister Mary Gustave OSF
Helen Rosenbaum .....	Sister Mary Ignatia OSF
Mary Lou Bigler .....	Sister Mary Roman OSF
Marian Einck .....	Sister Mary Raphael OSF

# HISTORY OF THE NEW CONVENT

On March 16, 1957, a meeting of 30 men, representing a cross section of farmers and business men from St. Francis de Sales parish, were called together by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. V. J. Peters to discuss the possibility of building a convent for the Sisters.

The Sisters had been living on the third floor of the old school building and it was felt that new quarters were needed as soon as possible because of fire hazards and other needed facilities. The increased number of Sisters also was an important factor in the decision to build a new convent.

Also present at the meeting was Mother Ruth Mary of the St. Francis Sisters in Dubuque.

After visiting various new convents in this diocese it was found that the contract price would be between \$100,000 and \$125,000. All agreed that such an expenditure would be impossible at the time because of the debt on the new high school building.

Msgr. Peters suggested that if the parishioners were willing to donate labor toward the project, he would purchase the materials and supervise the job. Plans were secured and approved by the diocesan building committee and work was started in May of 1957.

No parishioner was assessed any amount of money for the convent. Each one had the opportunity to suggest what he or she felt he could give voluntarily. From April 16, 1957, to Dec. 14, 1958, a total of \$49,874 has been donated.

In the two years the convent has been under construction over 17,000 hours of labor have been donated by the parishioners. Nearly every one has given two or more days of time and effort. Msgr. Peters, together with the Rev. Donald Heineman, the Rev. John Benda, the Rev. George Karnik and the Rev. Paul Weis, have a total of some

3,500 hours in clerical and manual labor.

Actual work of construction was done by Hugo Bohr, assisted by Ralph Wiltgen, Clarence Zweibohmer and other local help. All materials used in the construction, including heating, plumbing, tile floors and furnishings, were purchased locally from the Frudden lumber, Becker hardware and Schmitz furniture. These concerns were very cooperative through their generous discounts on materials.

Ed Brom, the custodian of the parish, was in charge of conduit installation and wood finishing.

Because of this help and labor donations, the convent when finished and furnished, will cost less than \$55,000.

When the Sisters move in on Sunday, Dec. 21, the first and second floors will be complete and paid for. Only the basement remains to be finished. Pledges on hand from various parishioners are sufficient to cover the cost of the basement so when it is finished the whole convent will be debt free.

Such spirit and generosity on the part of St. Francis parishioners speaks well for the efforts of their former pastor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. J. Thiltgen, and his assistants who worked with him for some 46 years, and the Rev. E. J. Frost, who as administrator, built the new high school building which plays such an important part in the life of the parish.

The formal dedication and blessing of the new Convent by Archbishop Leo Binz will take place during the coming summer. By that time a new life-size statue of St. Francis de Sales (donated by a parishioner) will have arrived from Petrasanta, Italy, where same is now being carved in Carrara marble. This statue will be erected in front and to the right of the new convent.