

Saint Thomas the Apostle - History of the School

Written in 1942

Saint Thomas the Apostle School opened on September ninth, 1940, with an enrollment of 376 pupils, and a teaching staff of eight Sisters of Charity and one lay teacher. Nine of the twelve ideal class rooms were utilized by the kindergarten and regular grades.

Saturday, October fifth, 1940, the Convent of Saint Thomas the Apostle was dedicated. The children of the school paid tribute to Archbishop Walsh. They were represented by Jane Regan, an eighth grade student, who delivered an address and they in turn sang, "God Bless America" and "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name".

Shortly after the opening of school, we organized a choir which consisted of pupils of the seventh and eighth grades, and at the same time a chancel choir representing our fifth and sixth grade boys. Under the direction of William P. Stanley, these two groups rendered their first accomplishment in the singing of the Gregorian Mass of the Missa Brevis at the "Forty Hours Devotion," in November, 1940.

The societies of the Junior Children of Mary, Junior Holy Name, Sacred Heart, Angels and the Girls and Boy Scouts have been organized and are functioning admirably. On May twenty-first two hundred children were confirmed by Bishop Boland. On May twenty-fifth there was a solemn May procession in pageant form to our blessed Lady. The children represented the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary. The crowning of our Lady was done by one of the kindergarten pupils.

Our first graduation of twenty-three pupils took place on Sunday evening, June twenty-second. On that morning the graduates enjoyed a Communion breakfast in the cafeteria as guests of the parish priests.

September eighth, 1941, school opened with an enrollment of 438 pupils. The enrollment is now 470. We now have in the grades a faculty of eight Sisters, and two lay teachers. We also have two special teachers, one for Physical Education and the other for Vocal Training.

May nineteenth will be our first Kindergarten Graduation which will be followed by a Physical Education and Entertainment given by the pupils of the Primary and Grammar departments.

Our second graduation of forty-three pupils will take place on Sunday, June twenty-first. This great progress in our infant school is a clear manifestation of perfect cooperation of our good pastor, Father Herron, his worthy assistants, parents, pupils, and teaching staff.

All working as a living unit for God and country have helped to attain the great progress made by the school in her religious and social activities.