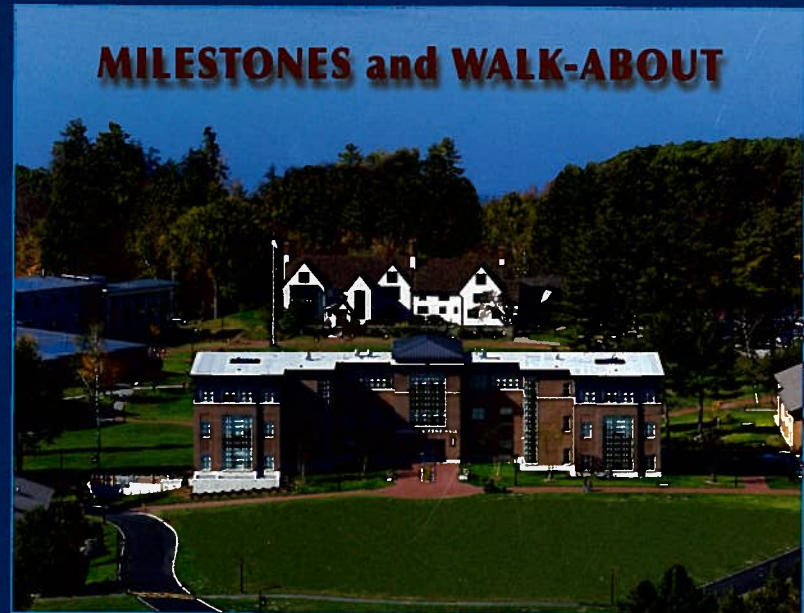


WELCOME TO  
SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF MAINE



**MILESTONES and WALK-ABOUT**



**Welcome to  
Saint Joseph's College of Maine**



**MILESTONES and WALK-ABOUT**

278 Whites Bridge Road  
Standish, Maine 04084-5263  
[www.sjcme.edu](http://www.sjcme.edu)

## MILESTONES FOR SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF MAINE

- 1912 Established Saint Joseph's College; located in Saint Joseph's Academy, Portland  
*Sister Mary Xaveria Toohey appointed as 1<sup>st</sup> President*
- 1915 Chartered by the State of Maine as first Catholic College for Women in Maine
- 1917 Moved into separate facility, St. Catherine's Hall, on Motherhouse grounds, April 30
- 1919 Approved by State Department of Education to grant the B.S. in Education degree
- 1923 Conferred the first M.S. in Education degrees to seven students
- 1926 Conducted the first summer school sessions
- 1938 *Sister Mary Honoratus Maher appointed as 2<sup>nd</sup> President*  
Published the first college catalogue  
Held Commencement exercises for the first four-year class of seven students  
Sponsored the first annual music concert with Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass.
- 1940 Expanded St. Catherine's Hall for additional classroom and residence space  
Celebrated the first Mass in the College's first chapel on February 24th  
Visited by NCEA and granted membership in Association of American Colleges
- 1943 *George Hermann Derry appointed as 3<sup>rd</sup> President*  
Joined with Mercy Hospital Nursing School /U.S. Cadet Corps for education of nurses
- 1945 Approved by State of Maine for training of veterans (Servicemen's Adjustment Act)
- 1947 *James F. Rockett appointed as 4<sup>th</sup> President ; died during his tenure*
- 1948 *Daniel J. O'Neill appointed as 5<sup>th</sup> President*
- 1949 Changed name to College of Our Lady of Mercy for more visible identity  
Received formal affiliation with the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.  
Became separately incorporated; formerly part of St. Joseph's Convent and Hospital, Inc.
- 1950 Established Beta Omicron chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma, National Honor Society
- 1954 Purchased Verrill estate on the shore of Lake Sebago, Standish, Maine (115 acres)
- 1955 Broke ground for Mercy Hall, a facility for classrooms, residence and dining areas  
Initiated St. Joseph's College Guild, made up of 1000 members throughout Maine
- 1956 Moved from Portland to the new campus  
*Sister Mary Carmel Theriault appointed as 6<sup>th</sup> President*  
Celebrated first Mass on campus in Xavier Hall Chapel, May 10  
Dedicated the Standish campus on October 16, 1956  
Dedicated Saint Joseph's shrine at campus entrance; gift of Msgr. Geo. P. Johnson  
Reverted from College of Our Lady of Mercy back to Saint Joseph's College  
Adopted *Fortitudo et Spes* as the College motto, replacing *Sentire cum Ecclesia*
- 1957 Established the President's Advisory Board  
Conducted the first College Commencement for 16 graduates in Xavier Hall
- 1958 Conducted 1st Capital Fund Campaign (\$500,000 sought; \$709,157 raised)
- 1959 Laid the cornerstone and completed Saint Joseph's Hall (100 beds)  
Dedicated the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes; gift of Msgr. Geo. P. Johnson
- 1960 Full-time Student Enrollment – 100**
- 1961 Received ten-year accreditation from New England Association of Schools & Colleges
- 1962 Restuccoed outside of Xavier Hall
- 1965 Expanded cafeteria in Mercy Hall

Renovated, landscaped, and dedicated the Meditation Chapel below Mercy Hall

**1965 Full-time Student Enrollment – 200**

1967 *Sister Mary de la Salle O'Donnell appointed as 7<sup>th</sup> President*  
 Acquired adjacent Marshall property to support future expansion – 25 acres  
 Established formally the Office for Admissions

1969 *Bernard P. Currier appointed as 8<sup>th</sup> President; died during his tenure*

1970 Formed the first Board of Overseers/Board of Trustees governing structure  
 Established formally the Office for Development

1970 Initiated the conferring of honorary degrees at annual Commencement  
 Made transition from an all-women's college to a coeducational institution  
 Built six townhouses for male residents (A through F)  
 Began the first athletic teams for the men and women (The Monks; The Lady Monks)  
 Converted library space in Mercy Hall into Chapel  
 Renovated six classrooms in Mercy Hall into the library  
 Transferred administrative offices in Mercy Hall to Xavier Hall  
 Converted resident rooms in Mercy Hall to faculty offices and classrooms

**1970 Full-time Student Enrollment – 300**

1971 Received reaccreditation from New England Association of Schools & Colleges  
 Renovated Saint Joseph's Hall auditorium into the Chalet, a recreational/ snack center  
 Introduced B.S. in Business Administration degree on campus  
 Conducted the first Annual Fund

1972 Introduced B.S. in Professional Arts degree (BSPA) on campus for Registered Nurses

1974 Built 12 townhouses with HUD grant (G through R)  
 Introduced the B.S. in Nursing degree on campus

1975 Served as a base for 172 Vietnamese refugees until sponsors were found

**1976 Full-time Student Enrollment – 400**

1976 Established the External Degree Program

1977 Dedicated Townhouse G as Gingras Hall in memory of Dr. Napoleon Gingras, benefactor

1978 Commenced the 2nd Capital Fund Campaign (\$800,000 sought and raised)  
 President Bernard P. Currier died on Christmas Day

1979 *Sister Mary Dolores Sablone appointed as 9<sup>th</sup> President (interim)*  
 Built tennis courts with three playing surfaces

*Anthony R. Santoro appointed as 10<sup>th</sup> President*

1980 Introduced B.A./B.S. degree in Communications/Broadcasting on campus  
 Renamed the Board of Overseers to "Board of Governors"

1981 Received reaccreditation from New England Association of Schools & Colleges  
 Celebrated the Silver Anniversary of the Standish campus  
 Introduced B.A. in Environmental Science degree on campus

Introduced B.S. in Business Administration degree in External Degree Program

1982 Became a founding member of the Association of Mercy Colleges (Presidents)  
 Dedicated the Margaret H. Heffernan Center comprised of:  
 Daniel and Kathleen Wellehan Library      Josephine C. Healy Chapel  
 Bishop Daniel J. Feeney Auditorium      Catherine McAuley Foyer  
 Observatory with Celestron 14 telescope, gift of John Reilly

Converted the Mercy Hall library back into classrooms  
 Developed the beachfront  
 Acquired adjacent land for expansion, Westerlea Way – 23 acres  
 Permitted by legislation to erect "Saint Joseph College" signs on Maine Turnpike

1983 Approved the Faculty Senate as part of the academic governing structure  
 Dedicated the radio broadcasting facilities in honor of Sister Mary Dolores Sablone  
 Expanded the gymnasium to house weight rooms/locker rooms/offices  
 Introduced the B.S. in Health Care Administration in External Degree Program

**1985 Full-time and Part-time Traditional Student Enrollment – 500**

Established formally the Office for Counseling Services  
 Completed construction of Standish Hall  
 Established B.A. in Religious Studies degree on campus  
 Dedicated the Msgr. Edward F. Ward Field for outdoor sports activities  
 Dedicated the gymnasium in memory of the 8<sup>th</sup> President, Bernard P. Currier  
 Received national coverage for men's basketball team in *Sports Illustrated* magazine

1986 Introduced the Master in Health Care Administration in External Degree Program  
 Introduced RN to BSN Opportunities program in External Degree Program  
 Acquired land adjacent to Gowen property for expansion – 120 acres  
 Completed construction of O'Connor Hall (78 beds)  
 Dedicated O'Connor, Standish, Putnam, and Cassidy Halls  
 Purchased Marian Hall on Westerlea Way

1987 *Loring Hart appointed as 11<sup>th</sup> President*  
 Celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Joseph's College  
 Moved Office for Development from Xavier Hall to 840 Roosevelt Drive, Windham  
 Moved External Degree Admissions office to 840 Roosevelt Drive, Windham  
 Installed night lighting for Ward Field; (first college campus in Maine to have it)

1988 Instituted the rank "Professor Emeritus"  
 Collaborated with Diocese for the Institute of Religious Studies/Pastoral Ministry  
 Moved the External Degree operations in Roanoke, Va., to campus  
 Reverted to "Board of Overseers" from Board of Governors  
 Collaborated with Mercy Hospital to grant Associate Degree for Radiologic Technology

**1990 Full-time and Part-time Traditional Student Enrollment – 630**

1991 Received reaccreditation from New England Association of Schools & Colleges  
 Established formally the Office for Campus Ministry  
 Scheduled the first Spring-Break service program for students/faculty/staff  
 Completed the soccer field on Westerlea Way

1992 Named one of the "best buys" for a college education by *Money* magazine  
 Introduced the B.S. in Physical Education degree on campus  
 Introduced the B.A. in Psychology degree on campus  
 Introduced the B.S. in Long-Term Care Administration in External Degree Program  
 Introduced B.S. in Radiologic Technology as degree completion program

**1992 Full-time and Part-time Traditional Student Enrollment – 819**

1993 Established formally the Office for Human Resources

- Became a founding member of the Greater Portland Alliance for Colleges & Universities  
 Received adjacent land as gift from our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Adams – 30 acres
- 1994 Changed name of External Degree Program to “Distance Education Program”  
 Received Jones Beach in Raymond as gift from Dr. & Mrs. Harold Jones – 11.5 acres  
 Introduced the LPN-BSN program in Distance Education Program
- 1994 **Full-time and Part-time Traditional Student Enrollment – 953**  
**Part-time Distance Education Student Enrollment – 5,000**
- 1995 *David B. House appointed as 12<sup>th</sup> President*  
 Purchased Honoratus Residence on Whites Bridge Road  
 Initiated the annual tradition of Mercy Week  
 Renamed Office for Development to Office for Institutional Advancement
- 1996 Introduced the B.A. in Liberal Studies degree in Distance Education Program  
 Introduced the M.S. in Nursing degree in Distance Education Program  
 Launched the 3rd Capital Fund Campaign (\$3.5 million sought; \$3,865,813 raised)  
 Completed campus-wide linking to Internet and e-mail  
 Completed construction and dedication of Carmel Hall  
 Renovated Mercy Hall chemistry labs and Gingras Hall  
 Received The Thomas Merton collection for the Wellehan Library
- 1997 Established the Office for Enrollment Management  
 Moved Admissions and Financial Aid offices to St. George Hall
- 1998 Introduced the M.A. in Pastoral Studies degree in Distance Education Program  
 Renamed Distance Education Program to “Division of Continuing/Professional Studies”  
 Introduced The Honors Program for on-campus students.  
 Established The Walton Street Society for graduates of fifty years
- 1999 Named the former Dean’s office: The Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Conference Room  
 Established the Office for Sponsorship and Mission Integration  
 Introduced the M.S. in Education in Continuing/Professional Studies (CPS)  
 Completed construction and dedicated the Harold Alfond Center which comprises:
- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Offices for Athletics                   | Dance/Aerobics Room  |
| Gymnasium                               | Climbing Wall        |
| Exercise/Weights Room                   | Sauna                |
| Locker Rooms                            | Indoor Running Track |
| Student Lounge                          | Swimming Pool        |
| Sister Mary Dolores Sablone Alumni Room |                      |
- Received the charter endorsing a campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity  
 Constructed handicapped accessible entrance to Xavier Hall  
 Named A Hall as Scully Hall; K Hall as Cunneen Hall
- 1999 **Full-time and Part-time Traditional Enrollment – 799**  
**Part-time CPS Enrollment, 1658 Undergraduates; 758 Master’s**
- 2000 Renamed Continuing/Professional Studies to “Graduate & Professional Studies”  
 Experienced destructive fire in Saint Joseph’s Residence Hall  
 Sold Jones Beach to Town of Raymond

- Equipped Wellehan Library with a circulation security system  
 Converted from a three-credit to four-credit academic program
- 2001 Received reaccreditation from New England Association of Schools & Colleges  
 Completed construction and dedicated Bernard P. Currier Residence Hall (121 beds)  
 Purchased library holdings, furniture and lab equipment from Trinity College, Vt.  
 Constructed Mercy Hall addition for faculty offices, classrooms, dining facilities  
 Dedicated Larry Mahaney Baseball Diamond  
 Dedicated Monsignor Edward F. Ward Park, inclusive of baseball/softball fields  
 Celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Graduate & Professional Studies (GPS)
- 2002 Renovated Mercy Hall classroom wing adjacent to the 2001 addition  
 Completed the field hockey field on campus
- 2003 Launched public phase of 4<sup>th</sup> Capital Campaign (\$4 million sought; \$4,398,981 realized)  
 Broke ground for the Academic Building  
 Dedicated Sister Mary Consuela White Nursing Lab (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Department)  
 Dedicated Bishop Daniel J. Feeney Residence Hall (121 beds)
- 2004 Named the Board of Overseers “Board of Trustees;” original Trustees are named  
 “Members”  
 Purchased Gowen property across from main entrance of campus (28 acres)  
 Completed construction and dedicated Harold Alfond Hall (Academic Building)
- 2005 **Full-time and Part-time Traditional Student Enrollment – 947**  
**Part-time GPS Enrollment – 1506 Undergraduate; Master’s – 785**
- 2005 Renovated Mercy Hall areas for GPS offices, book store, and Java Joe’s Cafe  
 Completed installation of sprinkler systems for all residence halls on campus  
 Renovated Gingras, O’Connor, Cunneen and Standish Halls  
 Established The John Paul II Center for Theology and Environmental Studies  
 Dedicated Sister Mary Kneeland Dining Room in Mercy Hall

Compiled: December, 2005

# WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF MAINE

## WALK-ABOUT

Saint Joseph's College is located on the former Harry M. Verrill estate. Mr. Verrill graduated from the Yale Law School in 1889 and became a life-long partner in his father's law firm, Verrill and Dana, situated in Portland. In 1907 he purchased the 115 acres which constitute the original parcel of land in Standish and built Woldbrook Hall in 1925. We know it today as Xavier Hall. Here his family spent many happy years\*

The Sisters of Mercy purchased the property in 1954 and moved Saint Joseph's College from Walton Street in Portland, where it had been located since 1912, to the shores of Lake Sebago in 1956. Let me take you on a tour of the campus which includes the three original buildings and the many more which have been added since.

### Xavier Hall

Named in memory of Sister Mary Xaveria Toohey, RSM, the foundress of "SJC," this building of Tudor design is one of the three original structures on campus and served as the Verrill family's summer home. When the College first moved here, Xavier was designated as a residence for senior women until 1970. Today it houses offices for the President; Academic Affairs; Sponsorship and Mission Integration; Finance and Administration; Human Resources; Institutional Advancement which includes Annual Fund, Alumni Relations, Planned Giving and Leadership Gifts, as well as Foundation Relations. Also located in Xavier Hall is the Murphy Alumni Center, named in honor of Sister Mary Ellen Murphy, RSM, from Hartford, Conn, who served as Academic Dean and Dean of the College from 1983 to 1998. In the time of the Verrill's, this room was used by Mrs. Verrill for music, painting and other artwork. In 1956, it became the College's first chapel and subsequently housed the Academic Affairs Office. The dire need for more spacious quarters in the mid-'90s led to moving the Office for Academic Affairs to its present location on the second floor of Xavier, in what was once the Treasurer's Office.

### Field Hockey Field

Far off to your right you will notice this facility. This woman's sport was introduced as one of our athletic offerings as early as 1995. Always our games necessitated playing on someone else's turf for we had no field to call our own. Such a situation was not something with which we were very comfortable. In 2002, we were able to eliminate such a "state of affairs" and we became the proud owners of this field which allows us now to host our competition "at home."

### Mercy Hall

This building was built in 1955 and named to honor the charism of the sponsors who are the Sisters of Mercy. It is located on what was part of the Verrill 9-hole golf course. Initially, this was our only classroom building, with the second floor serving as residence for a number of the young women and the lower level housing dining facilities. Administration offices were also located in this building. Today it houses classrooms, faculty offices, science laboratories, Office of Information Systems, Division of Graduate & Professional Studies, as well as the

Campus Bookstore and Java Joe's Cafe. On the lower level is located an enlarged dining room with its kitchen facilities, as well as a smaller dining room named in honor of Sister Mary Kneeland, RSM, Treasurer Emerita.

### Stone Cottage

To the right of Mercy Hall's back entrance you will see what marks another of the three original buildings on campus. It served as a meditation chapel during the time of the Verrill's. An interesting piece of history must not be forgotten. When the Sisters of Mercy were considering whether or not to purchase the estate, the President and Vice President of the Portland Sisters were named Mother Mary EVANGELIST and Mother Mary EDWINA (form of Edward). When they visited this building during their initial tour, they saw that at both ends were stained-glass windows: one of St. John the Evangelist, the other of St. Edward! What more visible sign could the Sisters have had that they were, indeed, meant to build on this property, since the patron saints of these two women were ensconced already in the windows of this small chapel!

Another interesting historical fact – The story has it that it was intended to serve as the Verrill family mausoleum. Ten years after we arrived here, one of our maintenance men found a loose tile in the marble floor, there to find a small tin box labeled simply “Remains of Baby Verrill.” Records show that a second son had been buried there, but his remains had been previously removed to a Portland cemetery. In the late '80s, a funeral parlor in Arizona contacted the College saying that another Verrill son had died and had requested in his will that his remains be returned to the family estate in Standish! We were, of course, understandably unable to grant this request, as this building was serving College needs.

For a short time during Sister Mary Carmel's tenure as President, the Stone Cottage was rescued from being a storage house for maintenance equipment and restored as a place for meditation once again. Over the years, however, because of increasing need for space, it has had various uses – The Coffee House, Office for Recreation Activities, Office for Student Activities/Intramural Sports, facilities for the yearbook and student newspaper publications, as well as faculty offices.

### Saint Joseph's Hall

This first residence hall was built in 1959 and named in honor of the patron of our College. The Sisters of Mercy all over the world have a very strong devotion to this man who was the foster father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. It was fitting to name this first residence after Joseph for, along with many other titles given him by the Catholic church, he is called the “Protector of Families” and our College has always prided itself on the family atmosphere or community it attempts to achieve. Presently, located in this 4-storied building are 50 resident rooms. On the first floor are to be found offices for Career Services, Counseling and Archives. On the lower level are located the Office for the Treasurer and the Office for the Registrar.

At the far end of this lower level is The Chalet, a student recreational/ snack and beverage area. The food preparation area of today's Chalet was once known as LEMRAC and was the sole snack and beverage area on campus. A careful look at the name “LEMCRAC” will let you see that it spells “Carmel” backwards. The students named it in honor of their beloved college president, Sister Mary Carmel Theriault, RSM. The main part of the present day Chalet was,

in our early years, a multi-purpose room and would at times serve as an auditorium, at other times as a dance and social gathering space, and on weekends became the Chapel, not only for the residents on campus but for Catholics in the Windham/Standish area who participated in the Sunday liturgy with us for many years before the Windham church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, was built.

### Stone Pond

If you take a few moments to walk down on the side of the Chalet side of Saint Joseph's Hall, you will come upon a small pond which, in the former days of the Verrill's, was considered a hazard on the then existing golf course! Over the years small fish and water lilies have made their home there; in the winter, when the Maintenance Department has had time to clear it, it has served as a skating rink. It also provided data for some small scale environmental science projects. In 1999, this site was named in honor of Fred Stone, who served for many years as our Director of Admissions and subsequently as our Director of Recreation.

### Margaret H. Heffernan Center

Returning to the main road, you will see the Heffernan Center, named in memory of the wife of Raymond Heffernan, a benefactor of the College and a man of a deep and active faith. On the campus of Rosemont College in Pennsylvania is another building named in her memory. Their son, John, is presently on our Board of Trustees. Within this complex are five important areas:

**Daniel and Kathleen Wellehan Library:** The fulfillment of many dreams happened when this was opened. The spaciousness alone was a gift after so many, many years in small facilities both on the Walton Street campus and on this Standish campus. Offices for the Director and members of the staff, an audio-visual room, carrels for private study, reading areas, etc., made this a most valued addition to our facilities. The Wellehans were well known in Portland, Lewiston and Bangor for their stores – Lamey-Wellehan Shoes. They also were very interested in the College and its growth. Daniel Wellehan and their son, Jim, served on our Advisory Board and Board of Trustees respectively. Presently, plans for the expansion of the library and its holdings are “in the works.”

**McAuley Foyer:** This is the designation for the area which serves as an entrance to the Chapel and to Student Affairs. For several years, it was empty space and simply served as a thoroughfare. Today it is provided with comfortable lounge chairs and tables which permit study and meetings to happen. It also contains a number of computers for the use of faculty, students, and staff. The name was given at the request of Mr. James McBrady, a member of the Board of Trustees for many years, as well as one of the primary workers to oversee the building's construction. Mr. McBrady was grateful for the influence and care he and his family experienced from the Sisters of Mercy over the years; thus the name in honor of the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine McAuley.

**Josephine C. Healy Memorial Chapel:** James Augustine Healy, husband of Josephine, and first cousin to Mother Mary Evangelist Ward, RSM, and Monsignor Edward F. Ward, was a benefactor to the sponsored works of the Sisters of Mercy in Maine. He established the Healy Fund to serve as principal for whatever was needed. In his will he stated that the Fund should support the building of a Chapel on the College campus to honor the memory of his wife. This happened in 1982 and is dedicated to the Mother of God. You will note that the back wall opens out to allow for larger attendance.

The hand blown stained-glass panel behind the altar tells the story of creation and shows the sky, the land, and the waters of the earth. According to the artist, Bert Weiss, the blues and white symbolize the periods of our life that are calm and/or stormy. The browns represent periods of dryness in our lives. The greens are evidence of times of tranquility. The cross is the Mercy Cross: the violet center represents Christ's death; the light amber represents the Risen Lord; and the deep amber tells us Christ will come again. The shaded amber rays emanating from the earth show our responses to the honor and glory of God. The single shaft of red shows the union of Father and Son.

**Student Affairs:** Off McAuley Foyer is the Office for Student Affairs. A busy place indeed! Students continually come and go seeking answers to their questions, verifying dates for club meetings, scheduling weekend activities, etc. Staff personnel who welcome and work with these students are most attentive and responsive to all. The original use for this space was designated as the Peter George Board Room. Need, however, prevailed so Board of Trustees meetings were scheduled elsewhere and Student Affairs moved in.

**Campus Ministry:** Across from the Chapel is to be found the Office for Campus Ministry. This is the hub for planning and implementing programs and events conducive to the spiritual growth of the campus community, as well as opportunities for service such as the Spring-break Workfest, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the needy, retreats, etc. This office is an important base for us as a Catholic College with a Mercy heritage.

## Service Building

This building was affectionately called "The Monster Building" by members of the College community when it was first constructed. Converting from an all-women's institution to a co-educational one necessitated some changes in what was being offered for recreational and social activities. A place for the students to "work out, to run, to let off steam/stress" was one of the needs defined. In 1970, "an edict" was issued by President Currier that as few trees as possible were to be removed from the site. With no excess money, this building was constructed of simply four walls, a roof, a cement floor and changing rooms for men and women. No extras were introduced; thus, the "affectionate" name is self-explanatory! Little did we dream of the role this first gym would play in the life of the College! Our basketball programs became very well known throughout the state and beyond. There are records of the number of "Wins" we enjoyed as we played teams from all over. In 1979, this complex was named in memory of President Currier who introduced the first formal program of men's sports. Because the home court for men and women's basketball games seemed to spell victory for us, the building soon took on a new title – "Chamber of Horrors." This was a "message" for visiting teams not to expect success! Obviously, there were some few times when our reputation was "humbled," but we took the few losses in stride and just waited for the next home game on the schedule. Over the years, some few additions were added like bleachers, parquet floor, an extension to provide office space for Athletics and for Student Services, a dance/aerobics room, appropriate locker spaces for home teams and visitors, and a weight lifting/exercise room. In 1999, after a successful capital fund campaign, the Harold Alfond Center replaced this initial "sports complex." The building was then converted to provide offices for various services – Marketing & Public Relations, Facilities Management (maintenance and housekeeping) and the Mail Room & Copy Center.

## Ward Park

This area was named to honor Monsignor Edward F. Ward, a long-time friend and benefactor to the Sisters of Mercy, as well as to Saint Joseph's College; a brother of Mother Mary Evangelist Ward, RSM, who was responsible for the moving of the College from Portland to Standish; a cousin to James Augustine Healy who financed the campus chapel; a respected and honored member of the clergy; an avid sportsman while a student at Holy Cross College and a continued sports fan throughout his life. No more fitting name could be chosen for this part of our campus. He followed the progress of our teams as faithfully as did our coaches! A fine person and faithful man of God

Contained in Ward Park are the baseball and softball fields where many envious victories are won. Each field has dugouts for the home team and visitors' team and a press box. One special benefactor for the baseball diamond is Larry Mahaney, a great sportsman in his own right with membership in the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame.

## Gingras Hall, Cunneen Hall, and Cassidy Hall

These halls are located to the left of the Service Building. These were once called Town Houses G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, and R. Each letter was attached to a individual doorway. In 1975, increase in enrollment necessitated the borrowing of a HUD loan to build these additional residences. Over the years, "The Quad" became the name given to this area of the campus.

**Gingras Hall** (Town Houses G, H, I, and J) was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Napoleon Gingras, longtime friend of the College who served on the Advisory Council in Sister Mary Carmel's time and on the Board of Overseers during Bernard P. Currier's tenure. Three of his daughters are graduates of the College – Pauline '67, Jacqueline '70 and Helene '71. The hall was refurbished and rededicated in 1996. Renovations were made again as recently as 2005.

**Cunneen Hall** (Town Houses K, L, M, and N) was dedicated to the memory of Monsignor William E. Cunneen, who was a longtime friend of the Sisters of Mercy, benefactor to the College, and prominent teacher, musician, and advocate for the poor in Portland, particularly during the Urban Development program of the '50s and '60s.

**Cassidy Hall** (Town Houses O, P, Q, and R), at the request of Barbara Cassidy, was named to memorialize her mother, Irene Delano Cassidy of Bangor, Maine. Barbara served on our Board of Governors and is a benefactor of the College. Mrs. Cassidy was also mother to Roselle Cassidy Flynn, another friend to the College and was a sister to Sister Mary Consolata Delano, RSM, who served at Mercy Hospital for many years.

On the lower level of Cassidy there is space once allocated for two classrooms. Demands for more space to house administrative functions most recently led to the moving of the Financial Aid Office to this location. The Hall was completely refurbished in 2005.



## **Saint George Hall**

This is the third of the three original buildings on campus. It served as the summer home for the Verrill's daughter Louise and her family and was named Ledgewold Hall. When the Sisters arrived, they named it Coolock House, the name of the estate where Catherine McAuley was invited to live with the Callaghan's in Ireland. The Callaghan's became the great benefactors for Catherine's works of Mercy. "Coolock House" was changed to "Saint George Hall" at the request of Monsignor George P. Johnson in return for his payment of the mortgage on the building. From 1956 until 1997, Saint George Hall was the residence for several of the Sisters who served as faculty, administrators and staff. In 1997, it was converted and remodeled for the Offices of Enrollment Management and Admission.

## **Harold Alford Hall**

The long-awaited second facility for classroom learning! Our first was Mercy Hall, built in 1955. Indeed, this is a state-of-the-art building which includes among its many features: a tiered lecture hall, wireless technology, air conditioning, and environmentally friendly materials throughout. Within the building we have honored generous benefactors with the Viola and Peter George Auditorium and the Andrew and Helen McSween Wing. The Hall itself is named after the man who repeated his trust in us by putting forth another large challenge grant to which so many friends of the College responded. You will learn about this individual when we come to the Alford Center.

## **O'Connor Hall**

Evelyn and Timothy O'Connor, professors of Elementary Education and Chemistry respectively, deserved to be honored in some lasting way for all they did to support Saint Joseph's College from its days in Portland and at the Standish campus. They began their careers during the depression years of the '30s. Money was not always available to pay them their salaries, but they graciously received whatever the College could afford. They were advised by Sister Mary Honoratus, RSM, our second president, to seek better opportunities and better salaries elsewhere. They would hear none of it! Their response was that they believed in Catholic education and they would remain with us, for surely better times would not be long in coming. Time proved them to be right!

For years, if one were to visit elementary schools throughout Maine, parochial or public, one would always meet teachers who had come under Mrs. O'Connor's instruction either through our regular "El Ed" program or during summer schools and extension courses. Superintendents would frequently come to the College and offer positions because they knew the quality of teacher preparation provided by Mrs. O'Connor. Similar offers were received from out-of-state superintendents and principals.

Mr. O'Connor made science come alive for those who feared the very name of "chemistry." Patience, sense of humor, kindness, and caring for each and every young woman were his trademark. It seems providential that one who loved the College so much and never dreamed of "greener pastures" would be called to his eternal reward right here on campus after finishing his class presentations one day in the fall of 1968.

## **Currier Hall**

This residence was dedicated to the memory of President Bernard P. Currier, in 2001, in gratitude for his nine years of undaunting performance as eighth president of the College. Some few of his achievements include: coeducation, men and women's sports teams, nursing program, Distance Education Program, and the restructuring of the College governance to a two-tiered system. Previously, on this tour, you were "introduced" to Mr. Currier as you read facts about the Service Building and how it once served as our gymnasium. Once the site for our gym changed and it came to be known by another name, Service Building, it was believed that this Hall would now be a fitting tribute to him.

## **Feeney Hall**

This most recently built residence hall is named in memory of Bishop Daniel J. Feeney, the sixth Bishop for the Diocese of Portland. He served on the College's Board of Trustees from 1949 until 1968 as President first, then as Honorary Chairman. In 1968, as Bishop, he gave to the College \$100,000 to build a second residence hall near to Saint Joseph's Hall because of our increasing need for such a facility. This money was spent over the course of several years for lawyer fees and architect fees as we attempted to address the continual need for proper sewerage disposal, always attendant to any building plans. Because the Bishop's gift did not accomplish what he had hoped it would, we always felt a moral responsibility to memorialize him in some fashion. Our first move in this regard was to name in his memory our former auditorium, once housed in the Heffernan Center but recently replaced by the Library Annex. However, we know he would be very pleased to have his name affixed to this state-of-the-art facility, for his gift was, after all, for a residence hall!

## **Standish Hall**

Built in 1985, it initially served as a residence hall exclusively for first-year men. The name was chosen to demonstrate that we hold in regard the town of Standish where we are located, even though it seemed we held Windham in greater regard because of the proximity of its business area to us. On the dedication day, Standish officials were present in good number. Recently, the Office for Campus Security moved from the first floor of Saint Joseph's Hall to the first floor of Standish Hall. In the summer of 2005, total interior renovation took place.

## **Putnam and Scully Halls**

On your left you will see six (6) Town Houses that were built in 1970. When we chose to become a coeducational institution, resident facilities for the young men became an immediate necessity. These residences were referred to simply as Town Houses A, B, C, D, E, and F in line with the number of entrances. You will recall that earlier on this tour you learned that similar lettering happened when Gingras, Cunneen, and Cassidy were first built. In 1986, E and F were designated to be one unit and named in honor of Fredric L. Putnam, the father of two of our Trustees at the time, Steven and David. The Putnam families for many years have been generous benefactors to the College, as well as to other Mercy sponsored institutions, in terms of their time, treasure and talent. In 1999, Town Houses A, B, C, and D, were named in memory of Margaret Scully '55 and Helen Scully, two gracious ladies and generous benefactors

## **Carmel Hall**

To your right next to Standish Hall is another residence for students, completed in 1996. It was the first residence, but not to be the last, equipped with an elevator! The design was drawn up and furniture chosen with much student input. The Health & Wellness Center is located on the first floor of this Hall. The building honors our sixth president of the College and the first to serve on this Standish campus: Sister Mary Carmel Theriault, RSM.

## **The Harold Alfond Center**

This long awaited addition to our campus was completed and dedicated in September, 1999. Harold Alfond, former owner of Dexter Shoe Company of Maine and known for his generosity to many athletic building projects in Maine and beyond, presented us with a matching challenge of \$1,000,000. Thanks to the efforts of many, we met the challenge and surpassed it. Today, we point with pride to this Center which houses a swimming pool, gymnasium, suspended running track, weights/exercise room, dance room, climbing wall, athletic offices, lounges and other attractions.

**Sister Mary Dolores Sablone Alumni Lounge:** From 1959 to 1983, Sister Dolores served in various capacities – professor of German and theology, Academic Dean, and as the ninth President. Respected by all for her scholarship and criteria for excellence, alumni are honored to have their space dedicated to her memory.

## **Marian Hall**

Now go straight through the Alfond parking lot out to Westerlea Way. Up the road on your left you arrive at a residence purchased from the Cummings in 1987. With a few renovations, it became suitable and ample to house six Sisters of Mercy. The name was chosen by the Sisters in honor of the Marian Year, a church Holy Year so designated by Pope John Paul II. This home was once on the right side of the road, but when Feeney Hall construction began, it was evident that it would soon invade space belonging to Marian Hall. In 2000, therefore, this building was moved across the road to where it is now, next to the soccer field.

## **Soccer Field**

This long-needed field is also on Westerlea Way, next to Marian Hall. Our men and women use it for practice as well as for hosting home games. There is something beautiful about seeing the students and coaches early, very early, in the morning during the fall season quietly and rhythmically going through the paces of practice. It is material for meditation.

## **Honoratus Residence**

This house is located beyond the College on Whites Bridge Road but retains relationship to the campus. It was purchased from the Driscoll's and presently serves as housing for two Sisters who once lived in St. George Hall. It is named to honor the memory of our second President, Sister Mary Honoratus Maher, RSM, a person admired for her academic leadership, professional standards, and warmth of personality.

Sources:

\* *Fortitudo et Spes*, Durward J. Ferland, Jr. '99. Available for purchase in Campus Bookstore.

*For Love of Mercy*, Sister Mary Raymond Higgins, RSM, Part IV, Chapter 9.

Oral history collected from the memories of Sisters of Mercy directly affiliated with the College since its early years in Standish: Sisters Mary Cook, Mary Aline Cyr, Mary Kneeland, Joyce Mahany, and Mary George O'Toole.

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