

Archives

Devotion in Full Measure



*A History of the
Saint Francis College
Guild*

1945 - 1995

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by
Sister M. JoEllen Scheetz

Saint Francis College
Fort Wayne, Indiana
1995

Dedicated to
all the devoted women who,
throughout the past fifty years,
have served and supported
Saint Francis College

Acknowledgments

The author acknowledges with deep gratitude the women who served as secretary of the Saint Francis College Guild through the years and kept good minutes and records. Noteworthy among these women was Mrs. Genny Schauer, who held the office of Guild secretary for twenty-eight years.

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PART I. THE GUILD IN THE 1940's

The Beginning and the Early Years

The Saint Francis College Guild had its beginning on November 29, 1945, when a group of three women, Mrs. Joseph Adang, Mrs. Ralph Miller, and Mrs. Erwin Schlebecher, held a meeting in the "Blue Room" of the Bass mansion with Sister M. Borgia Anthrop, the superior of the Sisters at the College. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a mothers' club or guild. The daughters of the three women--Joan Adang, Euline Miller, and Elaine Schlebecher--were all students at the College that first year. Although neither the name nor the membership of the new organization was determined at that initial meeting, those present agreed that its purpose should be the general advancement of the College and the accomplishment of projects which would contribute to the cultural, social, and material development of the institution (Scheetz, 111). The organization was later formally named the Saint Francis College Guild, and its first president was Mrs. Forrest Hiser, whose daughter Patti was also a student at the College. Although the first members of the Guild were mothers of current students, membership was open to any woman who was interested in the College and willing to work toward its betterment.

While no minutes exist for the meetings of the Guild

from November, 1945, to June, 1949, the organization obviously flourished because, by 1949 the membership numbered 235 women (Minutes, 6/9/49). Sister Borgia continued as the moderator of the group, although other Sisters at the College--among them Sister Rosanna, Sister Edith, and Sister Agnes--attended the Guild meetings from time to time.

Mrs. Joseph Adang, elected president of the Guild in 1947 to succeed Mrs. Hiser, was re-elected in 1949, along with the following officers: Mrs. Agatha Ward, vice-president; Mrs. Adolph Uecker, secretary; and Mrs. Florence Krull, treasurer (Minutes 6/9/49).

Guild Activities during the Early Years

One of the first services performed by the Guild members in the early years of the organization was to identify housing for resident students at the College. When Saint Francis moved to Fort Wayne in the summer of 1944 and began its first academic year in September, most of the out-of-town resident students were housed in the white frame structure at the northwest corner of the campus. It had been the caretaker's house while the Bass family lived on the estate. Although the structure was not ideally suited for use as a residence hall, approximately twenty students were housed there in 1944-45. Since the total number of resident students exceeded this number, off-campus housing had to be found for some of the older students who had

attended the College in Lafayette and came to Fort Wayne as sophomores, juniors, and seniors to complete their education at Saint Francis. The women of the Guild were very helpful in locating appropriate housing for these students off-campus, particularly since the Sisters, who were new to the city, did not know where suitable places could be found.

From the very earliest days of the Guild, the organization helped the College financially. Trinity Hall, the first building constructed on campus after the College moved to Fort Wayne, was completed in 1948. The Guild pledged the amount of \$400 for the purchase of an altar railing for the chapel, which had been moved from the Bass mansion and relocated in the new building. The first record of money given to the College by the Guild is found in the minutes of the June 19, 1949, meeting, during which a check in the amount of \$300 was given to Sister Borgia as a payment on the pledge. The balance of \$100 was paid within the next thirty days. It is interesting to note that the only source of funds for the Guild at this time was the membership dues paid by the members, and after the pledge for the altar railing was paid in full, only \$3.84 remained in the treasury.

An increase in membership was a high priority for the Guild, and Mrs. Harry Hogan headed a membership drive which had as its goal to increase the number of members from 235 to 500 by September, 1949. As part of the

strategy to increase the membership, district or parish representatives were appointed and given the charge of recruiting new members from their respective areas. Together with the Guild officers, these representatives formed the Guild Board.

Another of the early activities of the Guild members was their involvement in planning and assisting with the dedication of Trinity Hall, which took place on October 4, 1949. The Guild provided and served the meal for the visiting clergy at 5:00 p.m., after the dedication ceremony. While the turkey, dressing, and gravy were purchased from a local vendor, a committee of Guild members provided the rest of the meal: potatoes, cranberries, endive, sweet pickles, and pies. The meal was served in the new College cafeteria.

Some of the early activities of the Guild were to become long-standing traditions which are still part of the Guild's annual schedule fifty years later. One such event was the December Christmas tea, which was the first social event for the entire membership of the Guild. The first tea was held on December 11, 1949. Miss Helen Riordan, drama director at the College, presented a group of her students in a play, and Sister Clarilda, music professor, presented her student vocal group, the Choristers, for the entertainment of those in attendance. This holiday tea was considered the Guild's most important social affair of the year (Minutes, 11/22/49). Refreshments of sandwiches and

cookies were furnished by the officers and board members, supplemented by "several dozen cookies from the Home Economics Department" (Minutes, 11/22/49).

PART II. THE GUILD IN THE 1950's

The First Spring Tea

A second social event for the full membership of the Guild was the spring tea, first held in May, 1950. The Choristers, under the direction of Sister Clarilda, again furnished the entertainment. The tea was followed by a business meeting which included an election of officers. Those elected were Mrs. Florence Krull, president, Mrs. Agatha Ward, vice president; Mrs. Nellie Uecker, secretary, and Mrs. Jess Klingenger, treasurer. The outgoing president, Mrs. Joseph Adang, presented a silver tea service to Sister Borgia for the use of the Sisters and the students at the College.

Financial Contributions by the Guild

From the early years on, the Guild made financial contributions for special occasions. In 1950, a monetary of money was sent to Bishop John Francis Noll on the occasion of his silver jubilee as Bishop, and Mass offerings were regularly given at the death of Guild members, their spouses, and immediate family members. The Guild also gave a Christmas gift to the Sisters each year. The next recorded significant gift to the College was a new Benediction cope and velum, presented at the Christmas tea in December, 1950.

The Sisters at Saint Francis College were deeply

grateful to the members of the Guild for their support in so many ways, and the Guild minutes contain frequent mention of the Sisters' expressions of gratitude. In December, 1950, for example, Sister Rosanna, Dean of the College, spoke briefly to the Guild, expression her appreciation. She stated that "the Guild is very important to the College, providing a contact with the people of this area, a contact that is a most necessary help in promoting the growth of Saint Francis College" (Minutes 12/10/50).

Growth during the 1950's (1951-1960)

Efforts to increase membership in the Guild continued in the 1950's under the continued leadership of Mrs. Harry Hogan, the membership chairperson. Current members were phoned to secure their membership renewals, and various methods were employed to obtain new members. The mothers of all the senior girls at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, for example, were included on the list of prospective members and were invited to the annual spring tea in 1951.

Although the treasurer's report showed a balance of only \$98.52 in May, 1951, the Guild members discussed a new project which they might sponsor. The answer came in the form of a request from the Young Ladies Sodality of the College which was giving an outdoor statue of the Blessed Virgin for the campus. The Guild was asked to fund the cost of a base for the statue, and the members agreed to

participate in the project within the limits of their treasury. While the stone and the building of the pedestal were donated, the cost to the Guild, including some landscaping, was \$80.03 (Minutes, 10/16/51).

A New Moderator for the Guild

In November, 1951, Sister M. Evodine McGrath, the newly appointed executive vice president of Saint Francis

College,¹ became the moderator of the Guild, replacing Sister M. Borgia, who had held that position since the beginning of the Guild in 1945. Sister Evodine expressed her appreciation for the work of the Guild, stating her belief that its continuing help would be an important factor in the future success of Saint Francis College (Minutes 12/9/51).

Having been in existence for seven years, the Guild became a more formalized organization with the adoption of a constitution and by-laws in 1951. These documents defined the name, purpose, officers, Board, moderator, and meetings of the Guild and provided for amendments as needed.

¹The following year, Sister Evodine was appointed the first resident president of the College. Before that time, the Provincial Superior of the Sisters held the title of president. Following the move of the motherhouse to Mishawaka, Indiana, in 1943, and the move of the College to Fort Wayne in 1944, the Provincial Superior lived at a distance from the College, and it was deemed advisable for a president to be appointed who would live on campus. As president, Sister Evodine continued as moderator of the Guild.

At the spring tea in April, 1952, the senior girls from Central Catholic High School, Huntington Catholic High School, and Decatur Catholic High School, and their mothers were guests of the Guild. After the program the Guild members elected the following officers : Mrs. Harry Hogan, president; Mrs. Agatha Ward, vice president; Mrs. Hilda Scherman, secretary; and Mrs. Isabel Gerhardstein, treasurer. On that occasion, the most recent gifts to the College from the Guild--a set of dishes and a set of silver flatware with service for thirty--were on display. The Guild added to this gift as finances permitted, and by May, 1953, china and silverware for fifty place settings was completed.

Membership Increase in the 1950's

In January, 1953, another drive for membership was held, and special Guild stationery, imprinted with the College seal, was first used for letters to current and prospective members and to local pastors who were asked to announce the drive in their parishes. As a result of this effort, 96 new members were added to the Guild, bringing the total membership to 330, and the resources in the treasury increased to \$321.25 in March, 1953. To handle the added correspondence, Mrs. Adolph Uecker was appointed corresponding secretary of the Guild. The size of the Board increased as additional parishes came to have representatives to the Guild. In November, 1953, the Guild bylaws were changed to limit membership on the Board to

forty.

At this time, the principal activities continued to be the annual spring tea and the Christmas tea. Some of the members--among them Mrs. Harry Hogan--were suggesting additional activities for the Guild, such as an annual Mass and breakfast, a day of recollection, an annual May crowning, and on February 22, 1953, the first Guild Mass (followed by breakfast), was held and became an annual activity. In March, 1954, Bishop Pursley honored the Guild members by being the speaker at their breakfast. The menu consisted of grapefruit, rolls, and coffee, and the charge was 35 cents.

The First May Crowning

The Guild held its first outdoor procession and May crowning in May, 1954. That year was designated by the Church as the Marian Year, since it marked the 100th anniversary of the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The procession to the outdoor statue of Mary and the May crowning, followed by the recitation of the rosary and Benediction, thereafter became a regular part of the May tea.

Guild officers elected in 1954 were Mrs. James Hipkind, president; Mrs. Harry Lauer, vice president; Mrs. Henry Scherman, secretary; and Mrs. Hugh Hart, treasurer. Mrs. Hipkind expressed her pleasure at having the opportunity to serve the Guild and her hope that the work of

the new officers would continue to be valuable to the Guild and the College (Minutes 5/23/54).

Fund-raising and Service Projects during the 1950's

Seldom without projects that needed funding, the College had recourse to the Guild in 1954 for the purchase of new drapes for the Social Room. Sister Evodine presented a bill for \$1,000 to cover the cost of fabric, hardware, and labor. The Guild members decided to hold a benefit card party/style show to raise money for this project, and the event took place at the College in October, 1954.

It was probably the most ambitious project thus far undertaken by the Guild and is the first recorded fund-raising activity undertaken by the Guild. Mrs. Maurice DeWald was the general chairperson, assisted by several committees and numerous Guild members. Over 800 tickets were mailed out; the L. C. Ward store supplied the clothing; models were selected; narrators for the style show were identified; each parish representative was asked to furnish a table prize valued at five dollars; and men were enlisted to assist with the parking of cars on the College grounds. The card party/style show was very successful and resulted in a net profit of \$783.28, after the payment of expenses which amounted to \$208.72 (Minutes, 10/26/54).

A second fund-raising project undertaken by the Guild was a card table promotion. By means of advertising, the Guild could make \$2.50 on every card table sold. When

the project was completed in September, 1955, the Guild had made \$537.50. This money was put in a savings account to be used at the discretion of the Guild Board. Thus the Guild was able to begin accumulating money from sources other than the dues paid by the members.

Many valuable services were provided by the Guild during the 1950's. Members helped to sell tickets for an oratorio produced by the Music Department of the College as well as for a Cultural Series that was being sponsored by the College, and they helped to serve luncheons during a two-day meeting of music teachers held at the College early in 1955. Sister Evodine referred to needed assistance in serving meals as "canteen service," and she called upon the Guild members for this kind of help several times a year.. The wives of the Lay Advisory Board members were often invited by the Guild members to join them in performing services for the College. Sister always invited the Guild members to attend lectures, convocations, concerts, and other special events sponsored by the College.

Beginning in May, 1955, two officers were elected every year--the vice president and the treasurer one year, and the president and the secretary the next year. This method insured some continuity and precluded having four new officers at the same time. Mrs. Harry Lauer was elected vice president and Mrs. Marcella Greter, secretary, in May, 1955. Upon the latter's resignation a few months later, Mrs. Hilda Scherman, who had formerly served as

secretary, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In September, 1955, Mrs. Loretto Sullivan became a member of the Guild Board as a representative from St. Patrick Parish. This date marked the beginning of a long relationship between Mrs. Sullivan and the Guild.

Late in 1955, at the request of Sister Evodine, the Guild purchased additional silverware to complete place settings for 100. Mrs. Florence Krull was in charge of this project, and the purchase was made at a cost of \$433.56 (Minutes, 1/24/56).

In May, 1956, Mrs. Hugh Hart was elected president, Mrs. Ralph Blume, treasurer, and Mrs. Loretto Sullivan, secretary for a one-year term. Mrs. Hart stated that she planned to name a program chairman for each Guild event, and the chairman could enlist the help of Guild members other than those who served on the Board. By 1956, membership in the Guild had increased to 448. St. Mary's Parish led the parishes with twenty-five new members. The newly organized St. Henry's Parish was invited to be represented on the Guild Board in Spring, 1957. While the annual dues for regular active members continued to be \$1.00 per year for several years, a new "Sustaining Membership" category was created for anyone willing to pay dues of \$5.00 a year to support the Guild projects.

In October, 1956, Sister Evodine asked the Guild to fund the purchase of new washers and dryers for the student laundry, and the members agreed to assume this project..

This equipment was eventually purchased at a cost of \$850.00 including free service for one year.

The College again offered a Cultural Series during the 1957-58 academic year, and the Guild was asked to take charge of the ticket sales. There were to be five events, and the charge for the series was \$5.00. All members of the Guild were asked to try to sell tickets, which were to be distributed through the parish representatives. A total of \$1500 was needed to cover the expenses of the series, but the ticket sales totaled only \$1,003. After some deliberation, the Guild Board members decided to withdraw \$300 from their savings account to help make up a major portion of the shortfall. The College covered the remainder of the deficit.

Sister Maurella as Guild Moderator

Following Sister Evodine's withdrawal from the office of President and from the College in 1958 for reasons of health, (Scheetz, 165), Sister M. Maurella, Chair of the Art Department, was appointed moderator of the Guild by Sister M Rosanna Peters, who succeeded Sister Evodine as President of the College. Sister Rosanna had held the office of Dean at Saint Francis and was a professor of history.

Fund-raising and Friend-making Plans

At the annual May meeting of members in 1958, Mrs. Pauline Koehl was elected president and Mrs. Alberta

Oddou, treasurer. Later that year, the Board members suggested that some activity be sponsored by the Guild, not just as a money-making venture, but also as a means of making friends for the College. It was decided to hold a card party in November, and a goal of sixty tables was set. The event was enjoyable as well as successful, and the Guild realized \$81.50 after the expenses were paid. Since the washers and dryers purchased earlier by the Guild were causing problems, they needed to be replaced, and the Guild members decided to hold another card party to help fund this project. This event, held in April, was well attended and netted the Guild approximately \$170.00. Sister Maurella informed the members that the College needed four and one half dozen place settings of the good china and one half dozen goblets. She asked the Guild to fund this purchase, if the members were willing. They agreed, and the dishes were purchased at a cost of approximately \$700.00.

In May, 1959, Mrs. Joseph Bruck was elected vice president and Mrs. Luke Elward, secretary. Mrs. Pauline Koehl continued as president and Mrs Alberta Oddou as treasurer for another year.

At the annual Guild Mass and breakfast in 1959, the speaker was Mrs. Katherine Neuhaus Haffner, who spoke on her new leaflet, "We Kept the Daughter We Gave to Christ." The daughter, Sister Katherine Haffner, was later to serve the College as a full-time faculty member in the

Psychology Department. She and Sister Carol Meyers, who had been a lay student at Saint Francis during the 1950's, also participated in the Guild bridge many years later.

It is interesting to note that the the amount charged for the 1959 Guild breakfast of grapefruit, rolls, and coffee increased from 35 cents to 50 cents!

PART III. THE GUILD IN THE 1960's

Mrs. Sullivan as Guild President

In May, 1960, Mrs. Loretto Sullivan, who had served as secretary from 1956 to 1958, was elected president of the Guild. A highly creative, energetic woman with strong leadership qualities, Mrs. Sullivan was an able person to lead the Guild during very crucial times for the College--years of unprecedented growth during the middle and late 1960's, and years of declining enrollment during the decades that followed. One of the innovations begun by Mrs. Sullivan was the Annual Letter, which she composed and sent to all the members of the Guild. Usually mailed out in early October, the letter described in enthusiastic terms the Guild events for the coming year, giving dates and times and urging the members to attend, as well as to renew their memberships for another year. Always included was an appeal for new members. The following excerpt is typical of the animated tone of these Annual Letters:

"We have a full season of interesting events planned for our membership. We do try in our planning to think of the interests and likes of all our members. We also try to make each event something outstanding that you will enjoy and remember. . . The proceeds [of all our events] will be given to the Sisters for the needs of the College. . . . We cannot

get along without YOU. Your continued loyalty and dedication to Saint Francis is an inspiration. The Sisters at St. Francis remember each Guild member daily in their prayers, so in belonging to the Guild you are always a winner. . ." (Annual Letter, 1970)

The Guild Response to a New Challenge

With the growth in the undergraduate programs, along with the inauguration of the master's degree programs in 1960, Saint Francis had greatly expanded in enrollment and was experiencing a pressing need for additional facilities on campus. A capital fund drive, known as the Expansion Fund, was undertaken to obtain the necessary money to build a new residence hall and a new classroom building, and to enlarge the student dining area in Trinity Hall. As in previous years when a need arose, the Guild was ready to help and made a pledge of \$12,500 to the new building project. Ways of raising this substantial amount had to be found. In addition to activities such as parish solicitations, raffles, bingo, card parties, and a pancake supper, a new, highly successful fund-raising project was inaugurated in 1961. This project was the Saint Francis College Guild Bridge, which consisted of an afternoon or evening of bridge once a month, for which each player contributed \$1.00. Each participant kept the same partner throughout the playing season--October through May. Ninety per cent of the proceeds was given to the College for

the Expansion Fund, and ten per cent was paid out in prizes. The bridge "play-offs" were held in May of each year, with prizes awarded to the partners who had the highest cumulative score from the monthly meetings plus the final "play-off" score. The participants consisted of a ladies' afternoon group, a ladies' evening group, and a couples' group. Mrs. Peg Lauletta served as chairperson of the bridge project during its first two years. Although the scheduling and arrangements were time-consuming and difficult at first, the bridge proved to be a very effective fund-raising event and, during its first two years, realized \$1,600 in 1962 and \$1,275 in 1963, amounts which the Guild contributed to the College (Minutes, 5/19/63). Between 1961 and 1963, the Guild contributed a total of \$7,600 to the Expansion Fund (Sullivan, Annual Letter, 1963).

In 1963, Mrs. Sullivan proposed that a Guild cookbook be published, and she invited each member to submit a favorite recipe (Sullivan, Annual Letter, 1963). Sister Maurella and students from the Art Department provided the art work for this publication.

In May, 1962, Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Thomas Haley accepted a second term as president and treasurer, respectively. Mrs. Walter Recht resigned as secretary, and Mrs. Helen Westerman was appointed to fill the unexpired term of one year. Mrs. Peg Lauletta resigned as chairperson of the Bridge and was succeeded in that post by Miss Marie

App. The following year, Mrs. Hilda Scherman was elected vice-president and Mrs. Virginia Poiry, secretary.

The regularly scheduled religious and social events--the annual Mass and breakfast, the May crowning and tea, and the Christmas party--continued on a regular basis each year. After offering the annual Mass each year, Bishop Leo Pursley became the regular speaker at the breakfast which followed and always enjoyed his association with the Guild. In addition to the generosity of the Guild members who chaired these events, the settings were greatly enhanced by the beautiful decorations provided by Sister M. Maurella, Chair of the Art Department, and other artistically talented Guild members.

Besides these regular religious and social events, however, the Guild members were always in search of additional ways in which to raise funds to support the various projects of the College. In 1964, Mrs. Sullivan announced a new project, "Christmas Traditions and Ideas," to be held in November. In her Annual Letter, she explained the activity as follows:

We will take over the Art Department and make it a Christmas Fairyland. We will have exhibits of all kinds pertaining to Christmas and the holiday season. The ladies showing the exhibits will. . .explain the project to you, and you will receive many ideas for your own Christmas, [perhaps] some special tradition

and ideas you and your family can enjoy. . . . Refreshments will be served; attendance prizes will be given. The total cost of a ticket is \$1.00 (Sullivan, Annual Letter, 1964).

Hilda Richards chaired the event, and about forty exhibits featured hobbies, demonstrations, and interesting Christmas ideas. Although a wintry blizzard made the campus almost inaccessible, about sixty persons braved the inclement weather to attend, and the proceeds from the event amounted to \$145.00 (Minutes 1/26/65). The "Christmas Traditions and Ideas" project was held again in November, 1966, but was replaced by a bingo party in the years that followed.

An Easter Monday Tradition

A smorgasbord luncheon, undertaken in February, 1965, became a regular event on the Guild calendar of activities except that it was later changed to a regular luncheon followed by an afternoon of bridge. Year after year, Mrs. Santa Jensen generously provided the table prizes for this event.

Having served as acting secretary following the resignation of Mrs. Virginia Poiry in January, 1966, Mrs. Genny Schauer was elected to that office in May, 1967. Mrs. Loretto Sullivan remained president, Mrs. Ruth Blackburn was elected vice president, and Mrs. Hilda

Richards continued as treasurer.

The Guild Bridge as a Source of Income

The Guild Bridge flourished and was publicized in an article in the Fort Wayne evening newspaper, *The News-Sentinel*, as the "Bridge With a Purpose." The article reported that, during the previous year, 44 couples had played in the evening, 40 women's pairs in the evening, and 32 women's pairs in the afternoon for a total of 232 participants (1973, exact date of article unknown).

The yearly income from the bridge project had become the principal source of revenue by which the Guild supported the College. Projects funded by the Guild in 1969 were the re-covering of the dining room chairs, the purchase of a circular sofa for the Social Room, the partitioning of a faculty office plus draperies for that office, and the re-covering of a sofa and two chairs in the faculty lounge (Minutes, 9-22-69).

In May, 1969, Mrs. Ruth Blackburn was re-elected vice president and Mrs. Genny Schauer, secretary. Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Hilda Richards continued as president and treasurer, respectively. Sister Maurella² served as Moderator of the Guild until 1970, when she was transferred from the College.

²In the early 1970's, the Sisters of St. Francis were given the option of returning to their baptismal names, and Sister Maurella chose to be known thereafter as Sister Laura.

PART IV. THE GUILD IN THE 1970's

A New President for the College

Sister M. Rosanna retired as President of Saint Francis College in August, 1970, and was succeeded in that office by Sister M. JoEllen Scheetz, who had been Academic Dean at the College in 1967-68, before going to the University of Michigan to complete her doctoral studies. Although Sister Rosanna, her predecessor, had never served as Moderator of the Guild, she urged Sister JoEllen to assume that role, and Sister did so, throughout her entire tenure of twenty-three years as President. Very quickly, she came to understand and appreciate the invaluable asset that the College had in the Guild, its devoted officers, Board, and members.

Mrs. Sullivan Publicly Honored

In May, 1973, Sister JoEllen honored Mrs. Loretto Sullivan publicly by presenting her with a plaque during the annual commencement ceremonies. The inscription on the plaque read: "To Mrs. Loretto Sullivan, President of the Saint Francis College Guild, in recognition and grateful appreciation for her untiring efforts through the years in behalf of Saint Francis College."

In 1971 Helen Westerman and Genny Schauer were elected vice president and secretary, respectively. They were re-elected in 1973, while Loretto Sullivan and Hilda

Richards continued as president and treasurer, respectively.

In 1975, Hilda Richards resigned as treasurer and was replaced by Helen Westerman. Alberta Oddou was elected vice president, and Genny Schauer continued as secretary. Because of her effective leadership, evidenced by her success at advancing the Guild and its projects and raising funds for the College, Mrs. Sullivan was re-elected president of the Guild by the Board every two years, from 1960 to 1975.

Creation of the Guild Room

A noteworthy project accomplished by the Guild in 1974 was the decoration and furnishing of a newly partitioned portion of the College cafeteria which became known as the "Guild Room." The College had long been in need of a room for meetings, particularly dinner meetings, of its Board of Trustees, Citizens Board, and other guests. The Guild paid for the carpeting, draperies, tables, and chairs in this room and also purchased paintings and other decorations for the walls. Through the years, the Guild Room has proved to be an invaluable asset and has been used to great advantage on countless occasions.

Guild Volunteers Organized

As has been previously noted, the members of the Guild had helped the College in many ways through the years. Still more would be asked of them. In 1975, the

College was experiencing severe financial difficulties, and Sister JoEllen made a special request to the Guild. She asked the members if they would help Saint Francis by volunteering their services for various tasks on campus such as sorting the mail, cashiering in the cafeteria, working in the admissions office, helping in the library, typing in the Development Office, and relieving the receptionist at the switchboard on Saturdays and in the evenings. Mrs. Sullivan supported this request and also emphasized the pressing need of the College for financial resources when she told the Board that "the College will need all the money we have before the end of the school year because of a financial shortage at the present time" (Minutes, 2/25/75).

The appeal resulted in seven Guild members volunteering their services in some of the areas of need. Mrs. Sullivan then inaugurated a more formalized program of Guild volunteers. In her 1975 Annual Letter, she asked for participants in this program, which was intended to reduce the administrative expenses of the College.. A group of Guild women then agreed to be "on call" to assist the College with special projects, primarily bulk mailings to donors, alumni, and prospective students. These tasks had previously been done by work-study students who frequently had to interrupt their work to go to class or study for tests, with the result that the mailings-in-progress sometimes remained incomplete and were delayed for nearly

a week. Mrs. Alberta Oddou became the contact person for the volunteers and called them together whenever their services were needed. Notified of an upcoming mailing, for example, Mrs. Oddou would phone the volunteers on the list and, at an appointed time, the group would come to the College and accomplish a mailing of perhaps 10,000 pieces in less than one day's time. The volunteers enjoyed the sociability that resulted from their gathering for these mailings, and the College benefited greatly by the timely accomplishment of the work.

Volunteers worked individually as well as in groups. Mrs. Helen Westerman, for example, volunteered two days a week in the Business Office for many years, beginning in September, 1981, and contributing countless hours of service to the College. The Misses Helen and Mildred Bueter, Miss Marie Herbert, Mrs. Mary Krock, and the Misses Helen and Florence Rissing were also among those who gave notable volunteer service on an individual basis.

The Death of Mrs. Sullivan

In the early fall of 1975, Mrs. Sullivan and her husband went on a European trip. Before she left, Loretto had composed the Annual Letter with the dates of the upcoming Guild activities, and it was ready to be mailed to the members.. Within a very few days after her return from the trip, however, Mrs. Sullivan became ill and died

very unexpectedly on October 9, 1975. Loretto was mourned, not only by her family and many friends, but also by the members of the Guild and all those who, through the years, had come to identify her with Saint Francis College. It was said that, no matter what service she requested or gift she solicited for the College, she was never refused.

Father Richard John O.S.C., the Crosier Provincial (who also taught courses at the College), preached the homily at Mrs. Sullivan's funeral Mass. Comparing her to the "valiant woman" in the Bible, he had the following to say:

... For many years our paths crossed at Saint Francis College. For almost twenty years she [Mrs. Sullivan] was president of the Saint Francis College Guild, keeping alive an enthusiasm for Catholic and Christian education in our city. She always had the energy to face one more meeting, one more project, one more fund drive, all for the benefit of the Sisters, the students, and the other faculty members at Saint Francis, but especially so that Christ's cause might prevail (Fr. John, text of homily, October, 1975).

Writing in his official column in *Our Sunday Visitor*, Bishop Leo Pursley noted the death of Mrs. Sullivan, as follows:

We offer our sympathy and pledge of prayer to the family of Mrs. Edward Sullivan, a niece of the late

Archbishop Noll. She gave generously of her time and energy to several Catholic organizations, particularly the Guild of St. Francis College. May she rest in peace (10/19/75).

A New President for the Guild

Devastated by the death of her close friend and filled with misgivings, Mrs. Alberta Oddou, vice president of the Guild, assumed the office of president. Mrs. Marge Dorsam was appointed vice president to fill Alberta's unexpired term and was subsequently elected vice president. Genny Schauer and Helen Westerman continued as secretary and treasurer, respectively. The officers and members rallied behind Mrs. Oddou, and she soon became comfortable in her new role as president.

Lack of Nominees for Guild Offices

After 1975, when the annual meeting of members occurred in May each year and the election of two of the officers was to take place, members were unwilling to be nominated. The longer the four incumbent officers remained in office, the more reluctant others were to allow their names to be submitted as nominees. As a result, there was no change in officers from 1975 to 1990. In retrospect, one might say that it would have been better to have had term limits for the Guild officers with the possibility of re-election possible after some period of time. Had this been

done, more of the members would have had the opportunity to serve as officers, and the prospect of following in the footsteps of long-time officers would not have been so formidable. Viewed from another aspect, however, it was certainly true that leadership ability was not lacking among the Board and the other Guild members and, had they been willing to be nominated for a Guild office, they could have exercised this ability. Perhaps they simply found it easier to let the incumbent officers continue to "do the job" year after year, and the four were without doubt a devoted group.

When Mrs. Oddou became the Guild President, Mrs. Gerry Sarrazin replaced her as contact person for the Guild volunteers. Efforts to increase the membership never ceased. The yearly dues were increased to \$2.00, with the sustaining membership remaining at \$5.00. Thirteen Fort Wayne parishes were represented on the Guild Board.

The activities which had become Guild traditions continued--the annual Mass and breakfast, the Christmas tea, the spring luncheon and card party, the May Crowning and tea, and the bingo party in November.. Mrs. Oddou continued to write an Annual Letter, mailed out in two installments, one in October, which listed and explained the Guild events through January, and one in February which covered the events from then until the next fall. Mrs. Oddou and Mrs. Dorsam took over the scheduling and administration of the three bridge groups.

Inauguration of the Spring Picnic

Mrs. Oddou inaugurated a new social activity, namely, a picnic in June to which the Guild Board members, the Guild volunteers, and the Sisters were invited. This event was always an enjoyable occasion, with the ladies each bringing a covered dish and the College furnishing the meat. When the weather permitted, this picnic was held outdoors on the campus, which provided a beautiful setting for a pleasant, relaxing evening.

A new fund-raising project, an auction of antiques, was undertaken by the Guild in May, 1977. Although the auctioneer, Mr. Arthur Tilbury, and his staff gave freely of their time, the attendance was small, and the auction realized about \$750.00 for the College, a disappointing result, the Guild members felt, for the amount of work involved..

A New Bishop as Speaker

At the annual Guild Mass and breakfast in October, 1977, Bishop McManus was the guest celebrant and speaker for the first time. Becoming a staunch supporter of Saint Francis College, the Bishop continued to serve as the celebrant and speaker for the Annual Mass and breakfast for the next three years.

The Introduction of a Christmas Boutique

The Christmas tea in December was enhanced by the addition of a boutique. Guild members donated fancywork,

baked goods, and Christmas items. Sister M. Celine from the Biology Department donated plants, and Mrs. Raymond Kozlowski, the mother of Sister Ann Christine, donated many ceramic articles for sale at the boutique. Sister M. Monica, another Sister in the Franciscan province, donated fancywork articles that she had made. The most popular items were the baked goods, and the Guild members were asked to bring more of these for the Christmas boutique the following year (1978).

The Christmas tea was regularly held in the Social Room, which was always beautifully decorated by one or more of the Guild ladies for the festive season. Two of the women who fulfilled this artistic task for many years were Mrs. Capitola ("Cappy") Deininger and Mrs. Henrietta Parrot. A large Christmas tree was decorated for the occasion by women resident students under the direction of Sister Aloysius, who was in charge of Bonzel Hall.

Philosophy Regarding Guild Funds

Beginning about the mid-1970's, the proceeds from the various Guild activities were not immediately turned over to the College to be spent, but were accumulated in a Guild savings account and in other investments where they drew interest. This mode of operation followed the consultation of Sister JoEllen with her Superior Provincial and the agreement of the Guild Board members. The arrangement was decided upon so that, when the College

needed funds for a substantial project, the money was available. The Provincial Superior's only stipulation was that an account be kept of all moneys given to the College by the Guild and that they be treated as any other donor contributions. Aside from the greater part of the money which was placed on investment, the Guild nevertheless continued to fund various current improvements at the College throughout the 1970's. These included new curtains for the circulation area and the smoking lounge in the library, equipment for use in various offices, new china for use in the Guild Room, and new carpeting and draperies for the art gallery in Bonaventure Hall.

In April, 1979, the Guild sponsored a wine and cheese tasting party in connection with a student Art Exhibit in Bonaventure Hall.

As a number of the Guild members became older and were unable to attend the meetings, some asked to withdraw from the Board and were granted honorary or emeritus status. New members were subsequently sought to fill the openings. Among the new Board members were several daughters of Guild members: Leanne Mensing, daughter of Alberta Oddou; Carol Tieman, daughter of Marge Dorsam; and Pat Neil, daughter of Esther Hogan.

Each year, efforts were made to maintain and to increase, if possible, the number of participants in the Guild "Bridge with a Purpose." In order to encourage participation, the Guild offered bridge lessons in 1979 to

anyone who wished to learn how to play. These lessons were given for a nominal charge by Mrs. Phyllis Thompson who donated her services and was assisted by Mrs. Jean Carter.

The Second Edition of a Guild Cookbook

The same year the Guild undertook the publication of a new Guild cookbook as a money-making project for the College. This was the second time that the Guild members had published a collection of their favorite recipes, the first "edition" having been completed in 1963. Mrs. Dorothy Moore was in charge of this second "edition," and she sought recipes from all the various constituencies of the College—faculty, staff, and administration, as well as the Guild members. The price of the cookbook was \$4.00, and by January, 1980, the profit from its sale already amounted to \$611.00 (Minutes, 1/17/80). Because of the interest in the cookbooks, a second printing had to be done. Permission was obtained to sell them in the gift shop at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne. The cookbooks received wide geographic distribution when Sister M. Theresa Solbach, Provincial Superior of the Sisters, purchased four of them for the Franciscan Sisters at the mission in Honduras.

PART V. THE GUILD IN THE 1980's

The 90th Anniversary of the Founding of the College

The year 1980 marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of Saint Francis College. The financial situation of the College was showing considerable improvement as the decade of the 1980's began. Enrollment had increased, and the Businessmen for Saint Francis College Drive for the Annual Fund had exceeded its goal. As an "anniversary" project, the Guild offered a commemorative mug for sale. It was a white milk-glass mug with a picture of the Bass mansion (the library) etched on the side, together with the name of the College and the years 1890-1980. The mugs were very attractive and were sold for \$2.50 each.

The Guild chose as its next major project the refurbishing of the Social Room, with the purchase of new carpeting, new drapes, and the re-covering of some of the furniture. Mr. Carl Light, the employer of Helen Westerman, made a walnut frame for the clock in the Social Room, donating both his labor and the wood. Income from the Guild bridge paid for this renovation project which cost approximately \$4,585.00 (Minutes, 3/25/80). Later that year, the Guild purchased new lamps and plants for the Social Room as well as new carpet for Sister JoEllen's office (Sister JoEllen, acknowledgment letter, 12/16/80).

In 1980, after an unfortunate "raid" by the police of a bingo party at one of the Catholic parishes in Fort Wayne,

the elementary school where she taught trace and cut out the stockings, and the Guild members sewed them (Minutes, 11/20/80).

The Guild "Bridge with a Purpose" marked its twentieth year of operation in 1981, with 48 couples playing in the evening; 40 ladies' couples playing in the afternoon, and 27 ladies' couples playing in the evening. The charge of \$1.00 per month for playing had not been changed since the inauguration of the bridge project in 1961. The bridge was producing about \$1,600 per year in revenue for the College as its third decade began.

Father Fortkamp as Breakfast Speaker

Since Bishop McManus was unable to attend the Guild Annual Mass and Breakfast in 1981, Mrs. Oddou invited Father Thomas Fortkamp, C.P.P.S., chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, to be the celebrant and breakfast speaker. Father Fortkamp had the reputation of being one of the finest priest speakers in Fort Wayne, and those who attended the Guild Mass and breakfast on October 18 concurred with this opinion.

The regular annual events continued to be held throughout the 1980's--the spring luncheon and card party, scheduled in the College cafeteria on Easter Monday while the students were on their Easter break; the May crowning and tea; the Christmas tea and boutique, and the "Bridge with a Purpose." A raffle of cash and donated items was

regularly held in connection with the bridge playoffs each year in May. In 1982, the charge for playing in the bridge was changed to \$2.00 per month, a modest increase after twenty years.

Addition of a Men's Bridge Group

Another innovation in the Guild bridge project was the creation of a men's group which began in the fall of 1982 with 12 men's pairs participating.

Additional events such as the provision of wine and cheese for the opening reception of an Art Department exhibit in April, 1982, and a yard sale, held in August, rounded out the activities of that year. At the request of Sister JoEllen, the Guild purchased seven dozen new chairs for the Social Room and for the Sisters' dining room. The best of the former Social Room chairs were used to replace chairs in the cafeteria which had become worn out.

Major purchases such as the new chairs were paid for by using part of the accumulated Guild funds which, in November, 1982, amounted to \$20,722.00. After reading her treasurer's report, Helen Westerman noted that "While this seems like a large amount to have collected in the Guild account, the *bi-weekly payroll* alone of the College is more than \$100,000, and the Guild assets, if turned over to the College on a yearly basis, would quickly disappear in the general fund, whereas if they are kept separate, they can be used for special needs of the College

which appear from time to time" (Minutes, 11/22/82).

Other items funded by the Guild were a camera for the Art Department, a new copying machine for the Registrar's Office, material for covering the kneelers in the College chapel, fabric and labor to re-cover furniture in the convent, and a chair for the chaplain's quarters. The total cost of these items was \$4,552.13 (Minutes, 11/22/82).

While the receipts from the bridge had always been kept in a separate account in order to facilitate the payment of the monthly prizes and the play-off awards, it was decided in 1983 that, at the end of each bridge-playing year, the profits from the bridge would be added to the regular Guild accounts.

Guild Endowment for Scholarships

In March, 1983, Helen Westerman suggested that the Guild use \$2,000 of the money made from the auction held the previous year to establish a "Guild Endowment Fund for Scholarships" and to add to the initial amount the proceeds from one Guild activity each year. From this endowment, only the interest income was to be used each year to enable a resident student whose funds had become depleted to return to the College for the second semester. After consultation with the Director of Financial Aid, this arrangement was finalized. Sister Aloysius, who knew the resident students well and was fairly well aware of their financial situations, usually recommended the student or

students who would receive Guild the scholarship award each year. The first two recipients of the Guild Scholarship were Miss Penny Rinehart and Miss Jeana Polanco. Each received \$250. The students who were assisted by this grant each year either expressed their gratitude in a letter or came to a Guild Board meetings and thanked the members in person for their generous support.

The First Guild Ice Cream Social

The idea for a new project came from a source outside the Guild. Mr. Robert Stoeckley, the Planetarium Director at the College, gave a program in the planetarium each summer during the Three Rivers Festival. He mentioned to Sister JoEllen that it might be a good idea for the Guild to sponsor an ice cream social in conjunction with that event. When Sister passed on the suggestion to the Guild Board, the members were receptive, and the planning began (Minutes 3/10/83). As a result, the first Guild ice cream social was held on July 9 and 10, during the Three Rivers Festival, and subsequently became an annual fund-raising activity by the Guild. The members furnished cakes and cookies, and the ice cream was purchased. Sometimes the social was held in the yard in front of Trinity Hall, and sometimes in the yard near Achatz Hall and the Planetarium. As the years went by, the Guild members sought help from College employees and other volunteers to help with the more difficult tasks of setting up the tables and chairs and

dipping the ice cream.

Appreciation Luncheon for Guild Volunteers

Efforts continued each year to maintain and to increase if possible the number of Guild volunteers, and this faithful group proved to be an invaluable asset to the College, particularly to the Development Office, in completing the bulk mailings which had to be done at regular intervals throughout the year. Mrs. Helen Phillips replaced Gerry Sarrazin as contact person for the volunteers. In 1983 Sister JoEllen inaugurated an annual "Appreciation Luncheon" honoring all the Guild volunteers. In the invitation Sister expressed the hope that the volunteers would find it possible to attend the luncheon by which [she wrote] "we are trying, in a small way, to express our deep gratitude for all your hours of devoted service to Saint Francis College" (Invitation letter, 12/9/83). This luncheon, held in December the first year, was later moved to February, near Valentine's Day.

Guild Participation in Capital Campaign

In 1984, Saint Francis College, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, embarked upon an enterprise that was unique in its 94-year history, namely a comprehensive capital campaign with a goal of \$2.5 million. The 1961 fund drive had been solely to fund the construction of much-needed buildings. In 1984, however, realizing the need for

a stronger financial base (endowment) as well as support for current operations, the College divided the campaign into the following areas: the academic enrichment fund, the student assistance fund, the campus facilities improvement fund, and an unrestricted fund.

At the Guild Board meeting on January 5, 1984, Sister JoEllen asked the Guild to participate in this important effort. She informed those present that, although the Campaign had not yet been publicly announced, the College had already received pledges totaling \$850,000. She suggested that the Guild consider a pledge of \$15,000 over five years, or \$3,000 per year. After discussing the matter, the members voted affirmatively on a motion made to approve a Guild pledge of \$15,000 to the Campaign. This was the first time in the history of the Guild that an amount of this size had been requested from the organization, and the positive response of the members to the request was a tribute to their devotion to the College.

An interesting raffle prize offered in 1984 was an elegant dinner for 30 people to be served in the former dining room of the Bass mansion (the College library). Tickets were sold, and names were drawn to determine the guests. The dinner was held on February 11, and the decorations reflected a Valentine theme.

A New Convent Kitchen for the Sisters

A noteworthy project funded by the Guild in 1984-85 was the enlargement and complete renovation of the kitchen in the convent, located on the second floor of the east wing of Trinity Hall. Originally a "practice kitchen" for the use of a small group of students in the Home Economics Department, this small room was totally inadequate for use as a kitchen by twelve to fourteen Sisters. Although the Sisters ordinarily ate their meals in the College cafeteria, there were times when the Food Service was not in operation--during holidays and semester breaks, for example--and the Sisters had to prepare their own meals. Aware of the need for a more adequate facility, the members of the Guild approved the project of providing essentially a new kitchen for the convent. A wall was taken out to enlarge the room; new wall and floor coverings were installed; and a new stove, dishwasher, and refrigerator were purchased. The result was a beautiful and functional kitchen for the Sisters' use. By Christmas, 1984, when the project was completed, the Sisters invited the Guild members to view the results of their generous funding which amounted to approximately \$8,890.00 (Minutes, 3/12/85).

Through the years, the Guild members were very good to the Sisters at the College. As has already been noted, the Guild funded their new kitchen, and they always gave the Sisters a gift at Christmas. In addition, whenever a Sister was in the hospital or had a death in her immediate

family, the Guild sent flowers or had a Mass offered. When a Sister retired to the motherhouse in Mishawaka, the Guild gave her a gift. Sister Agnes, for example, received several nature books. When Sister Arilda left the College, the Guild co-funded (with the Fort Wayne Arborist Association) an Engleman spruce tree which was planted in her honor.

When Saint Francis College was notified in 1986 that it would receive continued accreditation for another ten years, the Guild Board presented the Sisters some beverages with which to celebrate!

The Sisters were endlessly grateful for the bountiful generosity of the Guild, and they remembered their benefactors daily in their prayers. The Guild members in turn were grateful to the Sisters for this remembrance.

New Activities for the Guild

In her annual letter, as well as during Guild Board meetings, Mrs. Oddou frequently asked the members to suggest new fund-raising projects that might be undertaken in support of the College. In January, 1986, Mrs. Dorothy Moore offered the idea of having the Guild sponsor a bus trip to Wabash, Indiana, to see the Honeywell Home and have lunch there. With the approval of the Board, she and Pauline Koehl made the necessary arrangements for the a trip, tour, and lunch which took place on April 10. Although this event was mainly for the enjoyment of the participants, it resulted in

more than a hundred dollars in profit for the Guild (Treasurer's Report, 5/7/86).

The interest in the first Guild trip led to the planning of another such venture in the fall of 1986. This time the trip was a visit to the Franciscan motherhouse in Mishawaka, a tour of Tippecanoe Place in South Bend and lunch there, followed by a tour of the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The capacity of the bus was 46 people, and the participants could select a luncheon menu from a choice of several mailed to the Guild by Tippecanoe Place. Sister JoEllen went with the Guild and served as tour guide at the motherhouse and at Notre Dame. This trip took place on October 25, a Saturday when there was no home football game at Notre Dame. The event netted the Guild \$188.00 (Minutes, 1/27/87).

Another fund-raising project suggested by Mrs. Genny Schauer was the printing and sale of large bridge score pads, each consisting of 100 pages. With the approval of the Board, 100 score pads were printed and assembled in the College printing department. Paid for and then sold by the Guild during the Bridge playoffs, the score pads proved to be a popular item.

Items Funded by the Guild in 1987 and 1988

As in the past, the College always had needs, and the Guild helped to supply many of these. In 1987, for example, the Board voted to purchase a new piano for use

in the Social Room at a cost of \$1800. New salt and pepper shakers were bought for the college dining room, and a small microwave oven was purchased for the use of the College staff in heating the lunches they brought from home. Also acquired, at a cost of \$2500, was a microfilm camera, used to copy College records for more efficient storage. When a car used by the Sisters was no longer operable, the Guild designated \$3,500 toward the purchase of a used car (Annual Letter, 2/88).

In May, 1988, the Guild approved the expenditure of approximately \$6,000 for the purchase of 200 new cafeteria chairs. At the same meeting, the Board voted to assist with the renovation of the Student Center by funding the cost of a "non-alcoholic bar" in the amount of \$2,500.

The Annual Meeting in May

From the very earliest years of the Guild, the spring event was the yearly May crowning. After the 1970's, this ceremony was held in the College chapel instead of outdoors. The participants gathered in the chapel for an opening hymn and the recitation of the Rosary. The Guild president selected ahead of time the woman who would present a bouquet of flowers at the statue of Mary. This opportunity was an honor highly regarded by the Guild members. After the presentation of flowers, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given when a priest was available. The chapel ceremony was always followed by

the Annual Meeting of members and a tea, held in the Social Room in Trinity Hall. Year after year, Mrs. Florence Krull provided the flowers for the chapel presentation and also beautifully decorated the Social Room. The Annual Meeting consisted of the president's report, the treasurer's report, and the election of two Guild officers--the president and secretary one year, and the vice president and treasurer the next year.

Bridge Groups at the College

In 1987, the evening ladies' bridge group began to meet at the College instead of at the homes of the various participants. Because the parking was easier and the lot was well-lighted, the women preferred coming to the College for their monthly evening of bridge. In order to accommodate the group, additional card tables were purchased which remained the property of the Guild (Minutes, 9/21/87).

An Unexpected Opportunity for Saint Francis College

In 1987, the Lilly Endowment in Indianapolis announced a grant of \$12 million to the independent colleges of Indiana, which would be available, upon application, in matching grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000, for any project that would significantly move a college ahead. Saint Francis had long been in need of an athletic facility. Although the College had maintained a men's intercollegiate athletic program since 1964 and a

women's program since 1975, gymnasium space always had to be rented in some facility off campus, a situation which was less than ideal in many respects. Without much difficulty, therefore, the decision was made to apply for a maximum Lilly grant to help fund the cost of an athletic facility on campus. Sister JoEllen informed the Guild of this new challenge during the Board meeting in September, 1987 (Minutes 9/21/87). The members were excited and pleased about this new opportunity for the College.

The Guild pledge to the Campaign for Saint Francis College was to be paid off in 1988, and Sister JoEllen expressed the hope that the Guild would then consider another pledge of \$15,000 in support of the fund-raising effort to build the new athletic facility (Minutes, 5/11/88). Willing as always to help the College, the Board voted to take on this additional responsibility (Oddou, Annual Letter, 10/89).

Guild Breakfast Speakers during the 1980's

After the retirement of Bishop William McManus, various priests served as celebrant and speaker for the annual guild Mass and breakfast. In 1985, Father Oliver Bambenek, O.F.M.Cap., chaplain at the College, filled this dual role. The following year, Bishop John M. D'Arcy paid his first visit to the campus of Saint Francis College when he offered the annual Guild Mass and was the breakfast speaker. In 1988 and 1989, Father Richard John, O.S.C.,

chaplain at the College, accepted the invitation of the Guild to be the celebrant and speaker at the annual Mass and breakfast.

The setting of the annual Guild breakfast was the College dining room. While the Food Service prepared and served the meal, the enjoyment of the event was greatly enhanced by the floral bouquets on each table, beautifully and carefully arranged, year after year, by Mrs. Helen Westerman.

The Resumption of the Guild Bingo

In 1988, the Guild resumed its earlier practice of benefit bingo parties, sponsoring two such events, one on March 8 and the other on November 13 (Minutes, 2/4/88 and 9/15/88) This kind of activity, attractive to people who did not enjoy playing cards, was again held at least once a year.

PART VI. THE GUILD IN THE 1990's

A Backward Look over Four Decades

As the Guild entered its fifth decade of existence, the members could reflect on the previous years with great pride. Many changes and improvements made at the College would have been impossible without the generous efforts of this group which helped Saint Francis in so many ways--by devoted personal service as volunteers, by financial contributions, and by making the College better known through the bridge program and other activities which involved participation by the general public in Fort Wayne. The decade of the 1990's was to begin with a memorable year for the Guild.

Guild Participation in the College Centennial

Having been founded in 1890, Saint Francis College celebrated its centennial in 1990. In order that two groups of students might have the honor of graduating during the centennial year, it was decided to designate the time of this noteworthy milestone from January, 1990, to June, 1991. A Centennial Committee was created to plan the events for this important period. In addition to a full schedule of events, College developed a special logo and published an 18-month Centennial calendar with a beautiful picture of the campus for each month.

As an integral part of the College, the Guild also

observed the Centennial with special activities and events. The new College logo was used on the tallies for the spring luncheon and card party, and Centennial memo pads were given as prizes. A new Centennial Guild cookbook was published. In contrast to the first two Guild cookbooks published (in 1963 and in 1980), this new edition contained microwave recipes, "heart-healthy" recipes, and low-cholesterol recipes, in addition to the "old familiar favorites" (Oddou, Annual Letter, 3/90). Mrs. Dorothy Moore and Miss Barbara Streicher were in charge of the new cookbook project (Minutes, 5/7/90).

Guild Participation in the Athletic Center Dedication

One of the highlights of the Centennial Year was the dedication, on May 6, 1990, of the new Hutzell Athletic Center at Saint Francis College. Representatives from all the various constituencies of the College--Board of Trustees, Citizen's Board, the city of Fort Wayne, faculty, students, athletic staff, other College staff, alumni, and the Guild--participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Mrs. Florence Krull represented the Guild in this historic event (Dedication program, 5/6/90).

Recognition of Mrs. Alberta Oddou during Commencement

Mrs. Alberta Oddou was given special recognition by

Sister JoEllen during the 1990 commencement ceremonies. She was presented with a plaque which cited her many years of devoted service to the College as a member, officer, director of volunteers, and president of the Saint Francis College Guild. Mrs. Oddou's family were in attendance and shared the joy of this special occasion.

Guild Assistance with the Elderhostel Program

During the week of May 20-26, 1990, Saint Francis College hosted its first Elderhostel Program. Sister Elise Kriss, Undergraduate Dean at the College, attended the January 29 meeting of the Guild Board and explained that this national and international program is for retired people who come to a college campus and spend a week taking enrichment courses. Sister asked the Guild members to serve as hostesses and perhaps to furnish some transportation for the Elderhostel guests (Minutes, 1/29/90). The Guild members who responded to Sister's request enjoyed their contact with Elderhostel participants from all over the United States.

Guild Trip to Ohio

In the spring of 1990, the Guild Board considered another trip. Since the previous excursions had proved to be enjoyable and had resulted in some income for the Guild, it was decided to undertake another one. This trip, which took place on June 7, was to the LaComedia Dinner

Theatre in Springboro, Ohio, south of Dayton. Mrs. Helen Harrington chaired the event and Mrs. Frances Koehl served as co-chair. These two women were in charge of the arrangements and served as the coordinators of the trip. The bus was filled to capacity with forty-seven women aboard. After a bountiful lunch in the theatre, the group joined a capacity crowd in watching the featured production. It was the musical, "George M. Cohan," which dramatized the life of that song writer and composer of such favorites as "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy." The Guild members and the other women who went on the bus paid a flat fee of \$50, which included the transportation, noon dinner, and theatre tickets. On the way home, a stop was made in Richmond, Indiana, to see the rose gardens there and to have supper. The bus left the Bonaventure Hall parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and returned there about 8:00 p.m., at the end of a very enjoyable day (Minutes, 8/20/90).

Centennial Theme in Ice Cream Social

In keeping with the Centennial observance, the Guild chose as the theme of the 1990 ice cream social "A 100th Birthday Celebration." This annual event was held on July 7, 1990, the day of the Three Rivers Festival Parade, and the commemorative float created by the College for participation in the parade was on display in the yard afterwards, near the ice cream social. Robert Kelty, an alumnus of Saint Francis, baked a large birthday cake for

the social (Minutes, 5/7/90). Dr. Steve Sullivan, Director of Alumni at Saint Francis, along with other College personnel, helped the Guild members with the dipping of the ice cream and other tasks. As was customary, the proceeds from the social, which amounted to \$682.77 (Minutes, 8/20/90), were added to the Guild Scholarship Fund.

Unexpected Death of the Guild Vice President

Mrs. Marge Dorsam, long-time vice president of the Guild, had gone to the hospital during the week of July 2 for triple bypass heart surgery on July 6. Although she appeared to have come through the surgery successfully, early on the morning of July 7, the day of the Guild ice cream social, she died very unexpectedly.

Mrs. Alberta Oddou, president of the Guild, was again devastated by the death of a fellow officer and a very close friend. She nevertheless followed through with her duties at the ice cream social, difficult as that was for her to do.

Dorsam Memorial in the New College Chapel

Some of the money given in memory of Mrs. Marge Dorsam was matched by the General Motors Corporation (as part of an employee matching gift program). The amount of \$1340 was given to the College to fund some of the stained glass windows that were being created and installed in the new chapel, located in the former small gymnasium at

the west end of Trinity Hall.

A New Vice President for the Guild

On August 2, 1990, a letter was sent to the Guild Board members, asking them to submit the names of three persons whom they would recommend to fill the office of vice president. The letter also notified them of a special meeting to be held on August 20 for the purpose of voting for the new vice president. The result was a tie vote between Mrs. Frances Koehl and Mrs. Helen Harrington. An additional ballot was cast which resulted in the election of Mrs. Harrington to replace Mrs. Marge Dorsam as vice president of the Guild (Minutes, 8/20/90).

The "Month of Giving" Fund-raising Project

A new fund-raising project was undertaken in October, 1990. Included with the mailing of the Annual Letter was a 30-day calendar with giving suggestions listed for each day. Some of the suggestions included the following: "Happy to be alive, give 1¢ for each year of your life." Another stated, "Have you gone out for dinner this month? Give 5¢ for each meal eaten away from home." Still another recommended, "Give one penny for each room in your house."

It was decided that this clever and somewhat effortless project would replace the November bingo party in 1990 (Oddou, Annual Letter, 1990). By January, 1991,

the proceeds from the "calendar project" had totaled \$312.86 (Minutes, 1/28/91).

The Terminal Illness and Death of Mrs. Alberta Oddou

On October 9, 1990, Sister JoEllen sent a special letter to all the Guild Board members. The contents of the letter read in part as follows:

With this letter I send you some sad news. Your Guild President, Alberta Oddou, is terminally ill with cancer and probably does not have long to live. She is at her home (819 Putnam Street, 46808). Sick as she is, Alberta still took the time to write the enclosed [Annual] letter, to call a Guild member about decorating the Social Room for the Christmas tea, and to discuss with me a possible replacement for her as coordinator of the Guild volunteers. Talk about dedication! She is and has always been extremely committed to Saint Francis College and to the Guild.

When I visited her last week, I asked her if I could write you this letter, and she agreed that it would be all right. I ask you to remember her in your prayers, asking God that she may not have to suffer a long time. . . (Scheetz, text of letter, 10/9/90).

Sister JoEllen visited Mrs. Oddou again, just a few days before she died. Realizing that Alberta was very close

to her entrance into Eternity, Sister asked her to pray for the College when she got to heaven. Conscious and mentally alert in spite of great weakness, Alberta replied, "I will." She died on October 14, 1990.

A New President for the Guild

Following the death of Mrs. Alberta Oddou, Mrs. Helen Harrington, vice president, became acting president of the Guild until the following May, when she was elected president. Having been a Guild member for a shorter time than many of the board members, Mrs. Harrington asked for their help and guidance in performing the duties of her new office. Mrs. Rose Dodane was elected vice president to fill Mrs. Harrington's unexpired term.

Mrs. Harrington announced the upcoming events of the year--the April luncheon and card party, the May Crowning, the bridge playoffs, the raffle, and the ice cream social--and appointed chairpersons for each event. Mrs. Frances Koehl and Mrs. Cecelia Miller took over the scheduling and direction of the four bridge groups. Mrs. Helen Westerman chaired the women's bridge playoffs and arranged for the refreshments, as she had done for many years. Mrs. Francis Koehl chaired the couples' and the men's playoffs. The proceeds from the Bridge groups amounted to approximately \$3,000 each year and were used to pay the Guild's pledge for the new Hutzell Athletic Center

(Minutes, 4/17/91).

Updating of the Guild Bylaws

Since the Guild Bylaws had not been revised for many years, Mrs. Harrington appointed a committee with Mrs. Leanne Mensing as chairperson to review this document and give a report at the Fall, 1991, meeting (Minutes, 4/17/91). Presenting her report to the Board in September, Leanne suggested a number of changes which were discussed, but no action was taken.

Mrs. Helen Westerman Honored

Recognizing Mrs. Helen Westerman's long years of service to Saint Francis College as a Guild member, as the Guild treasurer for 22 years, and as a volunteer with 4,000 hours of service given to the College, Sister JoEllen presented her with a plaque noting these accomplishments during the commencement ceremonies in May, 1991.

These ceremonies officially marked the closing of the Centennial Year of the College, and Mr. Richard T. Doermer, a Trustee of Saint Francis, read a formal proclamation announcing the entry of the College into its second century of existence.

Guild Events in Summer and Fall, 1991

The traditional ice cream social was held as usual in July, in connection with the Three Rivers Festival. Mr.

Tony Davis, newly appointed Director of Alumni Relations, helped with the Social and enlisted some of the alumni to assist also. Because of rainy weather, the number of patrons was small, and the event netted only \$300 for the Guild.

The annual Mass and breakfast was held on October 20, with Father Richard John, O.S.C. as celebrant. The speaker at the breakfast was Sister JoEllen, who told those present about her recent trip to Taiwan to recruit students for the College.

The regular spring raffle, held in conjunction with the bridge playoffs, netted \$566.00 in 1991. This money was designated for the purchase of new card tables to be used by the Guild for the bridge groups playing at the College.

Another Guild Bus Trip

A bus trip, an ever-popular event, was planned and took place on November 14. A capacity group of forty-six women again went to LaComedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro, Ohio, where they saw the Cole Porter musical, "Anything Goes."

The Centennial Cookbook

The Centennial cookbook, which had been delayed because of various problems, was finally ready for the printer, and Dorothy Moore reported that she hoped it would be ready by the end of February, 1991 (Minutes, 1/28/91).

It had been dedicated to Mrs. Alberta Oddou (Harrington Annual Letter, February, 1991). The cookbook was sold at first for \$6.00, but the price was later reduced to \$4.00.

Bishop D'Arcy Guild Breakfast Speaker in 1992

After an absence of several years, Bishop John D'Arcy accepted the Guild's invitation to the speaker at the Annual Mass and breakfast on October 11, 1992. In his response to the Guild secretary's invitation the Bishop stated:

I would be delighted to celebrate Mass for the ladies of the Saint Francis College Guild and be the guest speaker at the breakfast following. . . I am looking forward to being with you and the Guild members who do so much for this wonderful school (D'Arcy letter, 2/27/92).

Promotion of the "Bridge with a Purpose"

Mrs. Harrington appointed a Bridge Group Committee composed of Jane Biggins, Helen Harrington, Elizabeth Hilker, Frances Koehl, and Eileen Salmon, to promote and guide the four bridge groups. These efforts paid off with an increase in the number of participants in the bridge by Fall, 1992. Twenty women's pairs played at the College in the afternoon once a month; 24 women's pairs played at the College on a different afternoon each month;

24 women's pairs played in the evenings at individual participants' homes; and 16 men's pairs played at individual participants' homes (Harrington, Annual Letter, 1992).

The total proceeds from the Guild bridge in 1992 were \$4,224.00, with a net profit of \$3,595.14. Once again, the pledge payment on the new athletic center was paid to the College from this money.

The 1992 Christmas Tea

Rosemary Ricketts and Mary Lou Conroy were appointed co-chairpersons of the 1992 Christmas tea, and Rose Dodane, Guild vice president, took charge of the entertainment. The members of the newly organized adult learners' group were invited to the tea. While only eight or ten responded to the several hundred invitations mailed out, those who were present enjoyed the event.

Guild Events in 1993

The Board members discussed the possibility of not having an ice cream social in July, 1993, because the College had subsidized the labor of its employees for putting up the tent and handling other preparations the year before, with the result that the project was costing rather than helping the College. Sister JoEllen suggested that the event might be held in the foyer of the Hutzell Athletic Center instead of outside, thereby cutting the overhead of renting a tent and the labor of setting up tables and chairs. Pleased

with this suggestion, the Board voted to sponsor an ice cream social again in July, 1993..

Guild-Funded Improvements during 1993

A new sofa and two new love seats were purchased for the Social Room. The carpeting in the room had greatly deteriorated and had to be removed. The decision was made not to cover the terrazzo floor, since terrazzo is an expensive and acceptable flooring material. The room was painted; new valances replaced the former drapes, and new lamps were purchased. The College had received a bequest in the form of a significant collection of Madonna statues from Mrs. Mercedes Weber, a relative of Alberta Oddou. This collection was housed in locked glass cupboards in the Social Room and added greatly to the decor and beauty of that area.

Responding to a request from Sister Mary Ann McManus, the Head Librarian at the College, the Guild paid for new lace curtains for the entry area of the library, using the proceeds from the spring raffle for that purpose.

During the annual Guild picnic on June 7, 1993, Mrs. Helen Harrington presented to Sister JoEllen a check in the amount of \$3,000, representing the final payment on the Guild pledge of \$15,000 in support of the Hutzell Athletic Center. The completion of this pledge represented a total of \$30,000 contributed to the College by the Guild over the previous ten years, in addition to all the other funding the

organization provided for numerous needs and improvements. Without doubt, the Saint Francis College Guild was continuing to demonstrate that it was a significant asset to Saint Francis College!

Retirement of Sister JoEllen as President of the College

On March 19, Sister JoEllen announced her retirement as president of Saint Francis College after having served in that capacity for twenty-three years. She had served as moderator of the Guild for the same period of time. Hers was a long and cordial relationship with the Guild, and she cherished countless memories of her associations with the Guild members.

As a retirement gift to Sister, the Guild paid for the framing of seven scenes of the College campus taken from the Centennial calendar of 1990-91.

Sister left Saint Francis College on June 30, having been granted a year of educational leave. During this time, she took graduate-level courses in literature and writing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. While a student there, she lived in the Franciscan convent of St. Alexis Hospital, about six miles from the University campus.

A New College President and a New Guild Moderator

Sister M. Elise Kriss was appointed the new president of Saint Francis College, and she took office on July 1, 1993. Sister had been an administrative role at the College

for ten years, having served as Undergraduate Dean and Vice President for Administration.

Sister Elise chose to assume the added role of moderator of the Guild. Having been at the College for a decade, she knew many of the Guild members, and they knew her.

Presentation of College Needs

During the Guild Board meeting on July 26, 1993, Sister Elise expressed her appreciation for all the work done by the Guild. She pledged to do all she could to support and encourage the organization and said that she was willing to part of a subcommittee to recruit new members.

Sister expressed the desire to meet monthly with the four Guild officers before the full Board meetings for a discussion of their ideas. She presented a list of needs the College had and asked the Guild to help with these projects (Minutes, 7/26/93). The Board members voted to approve the following project: the purchase of an academic robe and hood for Sister Elise; the refurbishing of her office with new carpet, mini-blinds, and valances; the purchase of a typewriter for her secretary; and the supplying of cookies for the inauguration (Minutes 7/26/93). Projects to which the Guild responded later were the funding of new carpet for the small reception room in Trinity Hall, vertical blinds for the cafeteria, and the glass and framing of posters to be hung on the walls of the cafeteria. These funding of these items

amounted to \$1,061.96 and brought to a total of \$8,126.52 the amount given to the College during the 1993 calendar year (Treasurer's report, 12/93)

At the same Board meeting, the treasurer gave all the members present a written report of all Guild revenue and expenditures since her annual report given at the May, 1993, meeting of members. Discussion followed about the bridge accounts. It was strongly felt that this activity is definitely a Guild fund-raising project and should not be treated as a separate entity, even though the monies taken in each month are kept in a separate bank account so that the monthly cash prizes can be paid and the expenses incidental to the bridge can be paid. After the discussion, the position taken by the Board several years earlier was affirmed, namely, that, at the end of each year the balance in the bridge account should be turned over to the treasurer. The members further voted that the coordinator of the bridge groups give an accounting to the treasurer, to be incorporated into her treasurer's report at each Board meeting (Minutes, 7/26/93).

Inauguration of the New President

An inauguration ceremony, the first ever held for a president of Saint Francis College, was held on September 11, 1993. As has been noted, Sister Elise asked the Guild to assist with this event in several ways. The ceremony brought approximately 500 people to the College campus and proved to be a memorable occasion for all who

attended.

The February, 1993, Annual Letter

President Helen Harrington's Annual Letter in February, 1993, reflected the upcoming spring events: the Easter Monday luncheon and card party, the May devotions and tea; the ice cream social, and a possible bus trip, still to be finalized. (Harrington, Annual Letter, 2/93). The bus trip planned to the Drury Theatre in Chicago in June did not take place.

Guild Activities in Fall, 1993

Following a meeting of the newly formed Executive Committee (composed of the four Guild officers and the president of the College) on August 16, a Board meeting was held on September 13. Mrs. Helen Harrington, Guild president, announced that the annual Mass and breakfast would be held on October 10, and that Father Jeremiah Cullinane, the College chaplain, would be the celebrant and the breakfast speaker.

A report on the bridge groups noted that the ladies' afternoon had increased by four couples, and the men's group is also larger than last year.

Since the final payment on the Guild pledge for the Hutzell Athletic Center had been made in 1992, the Guild officers decided to give the annual bridge proceeds of \$3,000 to the College in 1993 and thereafter, to underwrite

a particular project each year until the Guild is called upon to make another pledge for a College campaign (Minutes of Executive Committee, 8/16/93).

Mrs. Rosemary Ricketts agreed to be the new coordinator of the Guild volunteers. She asked for help in obtaining more volunteers to help with the various College mailings.

Sister Elise reminded the Board that the Guild will be fifty years old in 1995, and noted that it was not too early to begin planning for this noteworthy milestone (Minutes, 9/13/93).

A significant change was implemented when the Guild membership dues were increased to \$3.00. The reason given was the increased cost of postage and the increased expenses of the Guild (Harrington, Annual Letter, 9/93).

The Guild in 1994

As 1994 began, the Guild Board members were involved in making plans for the annual spring and summer events--the April luncheon and card party, the May crowning and tea, and the ice cream social. It was decided to ask the Alumni Organization to co-sponsor the latter event.

Guild Funding of Improvements in 1994

The improvement of the Social Room was discussed,

and it was decided to acquire ceiling fans rather than go to the expense and structural difficulty of air conditioning the room. It was also noted that additional pieces of furniture, particularly new chairs, were needed to complete the redecoration of the Social Room. The amount of \$1,915 was earmarked for these chairs (Minutes, 9/19/94).

Sister Elise asked the Guild to consider funding carpeting for the Admissions Office, since it the area in which prospective students and their parents get one of their first impressions of the College. Upon investigation, however, it was found that carpet ought not be laid on this floor because of its location directly above the furnace. Instead of funding carpet, the Guild helped to refurbish the Admissions Office by the purchase of new chairs at a cost of \$2,970. Included in this amount were three chairs for Sister JoEllen's office in Trinity Hall.³ At the request of Sister Elise, the Guild also funded the cost of new carpeting for the Sisters' chapel on the second floor of Trinity Hall (Minutes, 11/21/94).

Retirement of Mrs. Helen Westerman, Guild Treasurer

After more than twenty years of service to the Guild as its treasurer, Mrs. Helen Westerman retired from that

³Sister JoEllen had returned to the College on June 1, 1994, after a year of study and had assumed the role of full-time faculty member and writer at Saint Francis.

office in 1994 for reasons of health. In her accounting of the Guild funds through all the years, she had kept meticulous records. In her interest to make the Guild money reach as far as it could, she spent endless hours going to different stores to price materials needed by the College so as to get the best price. She returned items when they needed to be exchanged and went to various places to obtain flowers for table centerpieces for Guild and other College events. Her example was indeed one of selfless service.

A New Treasurer for the Guild

Mrs. Marilyn Couture was elected to replace Mrs. Westerman as Guild treasurer (Minutes, 5/22/94). Mrs. Couture had an excellent background for her new position, having taught accounting at the postsecondary level in addition to having had previous experience in financial areas.

The Guild Scholarship Endowment

The Guild Scholarship Endowment, established in 1982 with the investment of \$2,000, had grown to \$9,000 by 1994. The Guild had continued to award a scholarship to a deserving student in the second semester of each academic year, using only the interest generated by the fund. Sister Elise suggested that two scholarships of \$500 each be awarded annually. Acting upon a recommendation made by

Mrs. Marilyn Couture, the Guild Board voted to cap the Scholarship Endowment Fund at \$10,000, but to continue to award scholarships each year, using the interest money plus money from the general fund, if necessary, and with the approval of the Board (Minutes, 9/19/94).

Service by the Guild Volunteers in the Instructional Materials Center

In March, 1995, Sister M. Geraldine, Director of the Instructional Materials Center at the College, had to undergo spinal surgery. Since she would be away from the Center for about five weeks, she asked the Guild if some of the volunteers might help with the staffing of the Center, particularly to answer the phone. A number of women responded, showing again the helpfulness to the College of this volunteer group.

Resignation of Guild Vice President Rose Dodane

In July, 1994, Mrs. Rose Dodane submitted her resignation from the office of vice president of the Guild. Ms. Mary Haft was appointed to fill the rest of Mrs. Dodane's unexpired term.

Declining Guild Membership a Concern

The Guild members and the officers were concerned by the decreasing number of members in the organization. In 1993 there were only 173 paid members, and the

following year, the number had only increased to 175. The membership dues, which formerly had constituted a major portion of the Guild income, had become a fairly insignificant source of revenue.

While there was a need to increase the general membership, there was an equally urgent need to increase the number of active women on the Board. It was noted that some of the women on the Board list no longer attended meetings and were not active participants. Mrs. Harrington therefore had a questionnaire mailed to all the Guild Board members, asking them to indicate their desire: to stay on the active Board list, to become an Honorary Board member, or to be removed from the list but remain an active member of the Guild. The active Board members were asked to bring to the following meeting the names of persons who might be strong assets to the Board.

The mothers of the incoming students in 1995 were to be invited to the fall Guild events in the hope of interesting some of them to join the Guild (Minutes, 6/6/94).

When the possibility of inviting the alumni to join the Guild was considered, the Board members felt that, while alumni were willing to assist with Guild projects, they would prefer to remain a separate organization (Minutes, 6/6/94).

Guild Events in Fall, 1994

The regular annual Mass and breakfast was held on Sunday, October 9, with Father Jeremiah Cullinane, College

chaplain, as celebrant and Sister Elise Kriss, College president, as the breakfast speaker.

Rosemary Ricketts remained coordinator of the Guild volunteers, and Nadyne Recht served as chairperson of the bridge groups. Some consideration was given to beginning a new group for retired couples. Persons interest in such a group were asked to call Nadyne (Harrington, Annual Letter, 9/94).

The annual Christmas tea and social was held on Sunday, December 4. Attendance was good, and those present were able to see the new chairs that had been purchased for the Social Room.

1995 - The Fiftieth Anniversary Year of the Guild

In her Annual Letter in February, 1995, Helen Harrington reminded the members that 1995 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the organization. She wrote:

Special greetings to each of you on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the forming of the Guild at Saint Francis College. This organization was started in 1945 by a group of ladies interested in and dedicated to helping the College and the Sisters, while also enjoying many social events. Today, our mission remains the same (Harrington, Annual Letter, 2/95).

She proceeded to list the upcoming events: an afternoon card party with a St. Patrick's theme on Sunday, March 12; a Dessert Card Party (replacing the usual luncheon card party) on Easter Monday, April 17; a Mass followed by May devotions (replacing the traditional tea) on Sunday, May 7; and the ice cream social on Saturday, July 9. All the events were to feature in some way the anniversary theme.

A special Guild Anniversary Reception would be held on Sunday, June 11, in the former Bass mansion (the College library) from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Leanne Mensing was asked to chair this event and make the necessary arrangements. The plan is to honor all past and present members, particularly those who have been members of the Guild for 50 years. All the Guild members were asked to submit, ahead of time, any "memories" and "mementos" of their particular involvement with the Guild.

Fifty Years of the Saint Francis College Guild

With the description of the Anniversary reception, this history of the first fifty years of the Saint Francis College Guild comes to a close.

All that the Guild has meant to the College throughout the past half-century cannot be adequately expressed in words. One can only be thankful that a small group of women, back in 1945, had the desire to form an organization that would have as its purpose to support the small, new, struggling institution of higher education known as Saint

Francis College and to initiate a tradition of service that would call forth from hundreds of women throughout the years their **"devotion in full measure."**

Afterword

Writing this history of the Saint Francis College Guild has been for me a labor of love. I was a freshman student at Saint Francis the year the Guild began, and I have enjoyed a long association with both the College and the Guild.

In writing this history, I have relied heavily on the minutes of the Guild Board meetings, and although I have chosen not to interrupt the text by too frequent citations, the information was obtained largely from the minutes and the Annual Letters. I beg the leniency of the reader regarding any notable omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations of people or events.

--Sister M. JoEllen Scheetz
Saint Francis College
Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 4, 1999

Works Cited

Book

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Annual Letters

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1964 Annual Letter	" " "
1970 Annual Letter	" " "
1975 Annual Letter	" " "
1980 Annual Letter	Mrs. Alberta Oddou
1988 Annual Letter	" " "
1989 Annual Letter	" " "
1990 Annual Letter	" " "
1991 Annual Letter	Mrs. Helen Harrington
1993 Annual Letter	" " "
1994 Annual Letter	" " "
1995 Annual Letter	" " "

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Sister M. JoEllen, Acknowledgment letter to the Guild,
December 16, 1980

Sister M. JoEllen, Invitation letter to Guild Volunteers,
December 9, 1983

Sister M. JoEllen, Letter to Guild regarding Mrs. Oddou's
illness, October 9, 1990

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Letter accepting the Guild's
invitation to be celebrant and speaker at the Guild
Mass and breakfast, February 27, 1992

Other Sources

Bishop Pursley, Condolences to the Sullivan family, *Our
Sunday Visitor*, October 19, 1975

Father Richard John, O.S.C., Homily at Mrs. Loretto
Sullivan's funeral, October, 1975

Program for the Dedication of the Hutzell Athletic
Center, May 6, 1990

Helen Westerman, Treasurer's Report, December, 1993

Minutes of Guild Board Meetings

June 9, 1949	Mar. 3, 1983
Nov. 22, 1949	May 12, 1985
Dec. 10, 1950	Jan. 27, 1987
Oct. 16, 1951	May 7, 1986
Dec. 9, 1951	Sept. 21, 1987
May 23, 1954	Feb. 4, 1988
Oct. 26, 1954	May 11, 1988
Jan. 24, 1956	Sept. 15, 1988
May 19, 1963	May 7, 1990
Sept. 22, 1969	Aug. 20, 1990
Feb. 25, 1975	Jan. 28, 1991
Oct. 19, 1975	Apr. 4, 1991
Jan. 17, 1980	Apr. 17, 1991
Nov. 20, 1980	Feb. 27, 1992
Nov. 22, 1982	July 26, 1993
June 6, 1994	
Sept. 19, 1994	
May 22, 1994	
Sept. 19, 1994	
Nov. 21, 1994	

**Current Officers, Board Members, and Moderator
of the Saint Francis College Guild
(June, 1995)**

Mrs. Helen Harrington, President
Miss Mary Haft, Acting Vice President
Mrs. Gilberta Holman, Secretary
Mrs. Marilyn Couture, Treasurer
Sister M. Elise Kriss, Moderator

Active Members

Mrs. Pauline Baker
Mrs. Alice Becker
Mrs. Jane Biggins
Mrs. Mary Lou Conroy
Ms. Velma Delamarter
Mrs. Helen Fry
Mrs. Santa Jensen
Mrs. Marcelline Junk
Mrs. Frances Koehl
Mrs. Mary Krock
Mrs. Florence Krull
Mrs. Leanne Mensing

Mrs. Marty Meyer
Mrs. Dorothy Moore
Mrs. Patricia Neil
Mrs. Henrietta Parrot
Mrs. Gerry Sarrazin
Mrs. Hilda Scherman
Miss Lucille Schiffli
Miss Barbara Streicher
Mrs. Carol Tieman
Mrs. Donna Wagner
Mrs. Helen Westerman

Honorary Members

Mrs. Cappy Deininger
Mrs. Mary Fenker

Current Guild Volunteers and Their Associates
(June, 1995)

Alice Becker
Jane Biggins
Margaret Bradley
Helen Bueter
Mildred Bueter
Florence Choka
Mary Lou Conroy
Marilyn Couture
Mary Delagrange
Velma Delamarter
Helen Fry
Jeanette Flick
Fannie Freehill
Charlotte Geise
Kate Gibson
Catherine Gorman
Helen Harrington
Marie Herbert
Phyllis Hermes
Gilbertine Holman
Alma Hoopingarner
Dorothy Junk
Marcelline Junk

Ginny Kaylor
Catherine Kleinman
Frances Koehl
Mary Krock
Florence Krull
Rita Leeuw
Marty Meyer
Dorothy Moore
Leona Plumanns
Bernie Plumanns
Rosemary Ricketts
Mary Rucci
Gerry Sarrazin
Genny Schauer
Hilda Scherman
Lucille Schifle
Agnes Shadle
Ruth Smith
Jeanne Telley
Phyllis Thompson
Helen Wiersch
Helen Westerman