

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Joliet Catholic High Schools Collection

Collection Number: MSS.11

Date Range: 1887-1990, 2008

Size: 1 Linear Foot

Location: RR.8.3, CO.OS.6

Creator: De La Salle High School, Joliet Catholic High School, Providence Catholic High School, St. Francis Academy, St. Mary's Academy

Abstract: The Joliet Catholic High Schools collection contains photographs, newspapers, scrapbooks, commencement programs, and other materials relating to the history of Joliet's Catholic High Schools including De La Salle, Joliet Catholic, Providence, St. Francis Academy, and St. Mary's Academy.

Acquisition Information: This collection has been composed from various accessions relating to the history of Joliet's Catholic High Schools. There was no reasonable original order to these materials, so an order has been created for research purposes. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

Separated Materials: None

Citation: Item Description. MSS.11 Joliet Catholic High Schools Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History: In lieu of an over-arching collection history, separate histories have been compiled for each school and are included under the appropriate series records below.

Scope and Content Arrangement: The Joliet Catholic High Schools Collection contains photographs, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, commencement programs, and other materials relating to the history of Joliet's Catholic High Schools. The collection is organized into 6 series by school. The series are arranged alphabetically, and the materials in each series are arranged chronologically.

There are oversized materials in the collection. They have been listed in Series 6 of the collection and are listed in the finding aid with their original series number as well. All oversized materials for this collection are in oversize storage drawer 6 located in the Curator's Office.

- Series 1: De La Salle High School, 1931-1933
- Series 2: Joliet Catholic High School, 1963-1990
- Series 3: Providence Catholic High School, 1928-1987, 2008
- Series 4: St. Francis Academy, 1913-1949
- Series 5: St. Mary's Academy, 1887
- Series 6: Oversized Materials

Related Materials:

Library Holdings

Hilltopper, Joliet Catholic High School Yearbooks, 1949-1984.

Just Memories, St. Francis Academy Yearbooks, 1924, 1969.

"Joliet Catholic Academy: Alumni Directory Millennium Edition," Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company; White Plains, NY, 2000

Content Listing:

Series 1 : De La Salle High School, 1931-1933

Location: RR.8.3

Scope: De La Salle High School opened in 1918 as an all boys high school. The Archbishop of Chicago, George Cardinal Mundelein, had the De La Salle Christian Brothers create the school as a part of their renovation of the old parish hall of St. Patrick Church in Joliet. When the school opened 45 boys were enrolled and they operated out of two classrooms in St. Patrick's. In 1927 the school relocated to a new building on the hilltop overlooking Bluff St., and in 1933, the Carmelite order assumed leadership of De La Salle and changed the name to Joliet Catholic High School.

This series contains photographs and drama programs from De La Salle. Materials have been arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
De La Salle High School Photographs, 1931	1	1
De La Salle High School Dramatic Club Programs, 1932-1933	2	1
De La Salle High School Commencement Program, 1932	3	1

Series 2 : Joliet Catholic High School, 1963-1990

Location: RR.8.3

Scope: The Carmelite order assumed ownership of De La Salle High School in 1933, renaming the school as Joliet Catholic. In 1956 the school expanded, with a new wing for students and new priory built for

the Carmelites. The all boys school remained on the hilltop overlooking Bluff St. until they combined with St. Francis Academy, the all girls school, in 1990, at which time they relocated to the present day location of Joliet Catholic Academy on Larkin Avenue.

This series contains newspapers, ID cards, and other materials relating to the history of Joliet Catholic High School. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Joliet Catholic High School Class of 1949 Photograph, 1949	4	1
Joliet Catholic High School ID Cards, 1963-1964, 1976-1980	5	1
Joliet Catholic Hilltoppers Football Schedule, 1964	6	1
Joliet Catholic High School Annual Benefit Tickets, 1971	7	1
Joliet Catholic High School Newspaper, 1990	8	1
History of Joliet Catholic High School, Undated	9	1
Hilltopper Cookbook, Undated	10	1

Series 3 : Providence Catholic High School, 1928-1987, 2008

Location: RR.8.3

Scope: Providence Catholic High School began as St. Mary Academy, a finishing school for girls run by the Sisters of Loretto, which opened in 1880. In 1918, the Archdiocese of Chicago invited the Sisters of Providence to take over leadership of the school and the name was changed to Providence High School. Eventually academic courses were offered by the school, but in 1931, due to the Great Depression the academic department closed. The school continued to offer a two-year commercial program, and in 1938 they offered a four-year secretarial program as well. Regular academic courses for girls were reinstated after the Great Depression, but in 1959 the school was condemned as a fire hazard and demolished. From 1959 through 1962 the students met at St. Mary Nativity Elementary school located on Broadway Ave. In 1962 the present-day Providence High School building opened, having relocated the school from Joliet to New Lenox. It was at this time that the school also transitioned from an all girls school to a co-ed school.

This series contains commencement programs, newspapers, photographs and other materials relating to the history of Providence High School. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Providence High School Commencement Program, 1928	11	1
Providence High School Newspaper Clippings, 1941, 2008	12	1
Providence High School Catalogue, 1987	13	1
Providence High School Photographs	14	1

Series 4 : St. Francis Academy, 1913-1949

Location: RR.8.3

Scope: Mother Alfred Moes, a Franciscan sister, founded St. Francis Academy in 1869 in a small stone convent on Broadway and Division. Streets. Francis Academy operated as an all girls catholic high school. By 1882 the school had outgrown the convent and relocated to a new building on Plainfield Avenue, and a new wing at Taylor Street was completed in 1915. Prior to this date many of the students were boarders, and they were required to study English, Math, Latin and Religion. In 1923 a new academic building was constructed on Wilcox and Taylor streets, which is now the University of St. Francis' Tower Hall.

Sister Thomasine of the Franciscan Sisters served as the schools first principal from 1923 until 1943. In 1944 Sister Borromeo took over as principal and made strides to expand the curriculum, receiving national recognition for her efforts, and ultimately leading to an increased enrollment in the school. Due to the influx of young women, St. Francis Academy moved to the current site of Joliet Catholic Academy on Larkin Ave in 1956. St. Francis Academy remained open until 1990 when they combined with the all boys Joliet Catholic High School and formed Joliet Catholic Academy.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
St. Francis Academy Dance Card, 1913	15	1
St. Francis Academy Scrapbook from Marguerite Mary Carr, 1920	16	1
St. Francis Academy, Ruth Mueller Scrapbook, 1924	17	1
Loose Photographs from Ruth Mueller Scrapbook, 1924	18	1
Loose Materials from Ruth Mueller Scrapbook, 1924	19	1
St. Francis Academy Senior-Junior Prom Documents, 1928	20	1
St. Francis Academy Publications, 1930	21	1
St. Francis Academy Drama Program, 1949	22	1
St. Francis Academy Photographs	23	1

Series 5 : St. Mary's Academy, 1887

Location: RR.8.3

Scope: St. Mary's Academy, originally run by the Sisters of Loretto, opened as an all girls finishing school in 1880, though the original building located on Ottawa St. did not open until 1883. In 1918, the Archdiocese of Chicago invited the Sisters of Providence to take over leadership of the school and the name was changed to Providence High School.

This series contains materials relating to the history of St. Mary's Academy. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
St. Mary's Academy Documents, 1887	24	1

St. Mary's Academy Commencement Invitation, 1901	25	1
St. Mary's Academy Report Cards	26	1

Series 6: Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.6

Folder:

St. Francis Academy Tower Publication, Jubilee Edition, 1944

Original Series:

Series 4