

Happy Anniversary, Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate 145 years and counting!

Our Sisters began their ministry exactly 145 years ago on August 2nd in Joliet, Illinois. Many exciting accomplishments have happened since Mother Alfred Moes, our Congregation's foundress, beginning days at St. John the Baptist School in Joliet.



The relationship between the Sisters of St. Francis and City of Joliet has been extensive. Many of the institutions that are vital to the city today sprung from Mother Alfred's dreams. St. Francis Academy evolved into what we know today as Joliet Catholic Academy and the University of St. Francis. Guardian Angel Community Services has a long history as Guardian Angel Home. Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home and Village, the Franciscan Learning Center and the St. Clare House of Prayer, continue the legacy of both Mother Alfred and the capable sisters who followed in her footsteps.



Yesterday: The Motherhouse and grounds, circa: 1882. Today: Congregation Offices are located at 1433 Essington St. in Joliet.

At present, there are not many organizations who can claim they have been around for 145 years and continue to make a viable impact on society as have our Sisters. The Sisters can be found responding to the needs of the communities in which they serve throughout the United States and Brazil. They serve as teachers, mentors and friends. They can be found ministering in parishes throughout Joliet, at the Will County Jail; in Bilingual Education, in early childhood programs and the list continues. Their presence continues to make an impact on generations both within and outside of the City of Joliet.

Happy 145th Anniversary! Celebrants are (center) Sister Mary Rose Lieb (our current president) and four of our past five presidents (from left): Sisters Vivian Whitehead, Mary Jean Morris, Rosemary Fonck and Elaine Murphy. In absentia is Sister Maria Pesavento.

