

Chapter 4 Foundations 1947-1951

After the solemnity of the opening of the College on September 24, nothing suggests more its initial momentum than the stark phrase: All classes in session on September 25, 1947.

This statement is powerful in its implications in terms of its affirmation of the quality of Mercy education as it had been known and experienced within the little world of Rhode Island since 1851. In its deeper roots, it is yet another fruition of the richness of Mother Catherine McAuley's philosophy of education. She herself said that to teach well, kindness and prudence, though indispensable, would not suffice without the solid foundation of a good education and a judicious method of imparting knowledge. She stressed scholarship, specialization, and progressiveness as she laid the foundations of the Baggott Street School.

The following list of the professional qualifications of the twelve members of the first faculty of Salve Regina College testify that the seed had indeed fallen on good ground:

Reverend Gerald Dillon, LL.D., professor of religion and philosophy; alumnus of Providence College and Catholic University, professor at Our Lady of Providence Seminary, Chaplain in U.S. Navy.

Sister Mary James O'Hare, RSM, Ph.D., dean of students; member of *New England Association of Teachers of English*, *Secondary School Principals Association*, *National Catholic Theater Conference*, and *National Thespian Association*.

Sister Mary Ignatius Hines, RSM, Ph.D., instructor in Romance Languages; a student at the Sorbonne, France, a member of *American Association of the Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese*, *Alliance Francaise*, and *National Federation of Teachers of Modern Language*.

Sister Mary Evangelista Scanlon, RSM, Ph.D., instructor in English, Latin, and German; member of *Classical Association of New England* and *National Classical Association*.

Sister Mary Martina Conley, RSM, Ph.D., instructor in history; member of *Catholic Historical Associations*, *American Historical Association*, *New England Association of Social Studies*, and *National Council for Social Studies*.

Sister Mary Catherine Durkin., RSM, B.S. Library Science; member of *Catholic Library Association*, *American Library Association*, contributor to organization of high school and college libraries.

Sister Mary Martha Quinn, RSM, B.S. Home Economics; Ed.M., instructor in biology and home economics; member of *American Association for Advancement of Science*, *American Biology Teachers Association*, and *National Science Teachers Association*.

Sister Mary Rose Agnes Cavanaugh, RSM, M.A., instructor in mathematics; member of *National Teachers of Mathematics Association*.

Sister Mary Rosina Lynch, RSM, Mus.M., instructor in voice, piano, and liturgical music; member of *Music Education Association*.

Pamela Dailey, Ed.M., director of physical education classes and sports program.

Henry Q. Nugent, Ed.D., director of adult education, international relations, and debate program; instructor at Catholic Teachers College and Providence College.

Carol Dunton, A.B., Dramatics, studied four years at Wellesley, played in season stock in Providence and in Casino productions, helped form *Newport Players Guild*.

Moreover, the students were eager, their hopes founded not on the reputation of an established institution, but on an unlimited trust in those who, together with them, would later be forever remembered as daring to set out on uncharted seas.

At the same time, as the story of Salve Regina College unfolds, it becomes evident that, in the Providence of God, we were provided with the kind of leadership the times demanded. From 1947 to 1948, Mother Mary Matthew Doyle, as Mother Provincial, was ex officio the first President of the College. She, with Sister Mary Hilda Miley as Vice President, was concerned with the financial needs of the College and the formation and functioning of the Advisory Board. The Board had its first meeting May 6, 1948, and included the following members:

- Most Reverend Bishop of Providence, Honorary Chairman
- Monsignor Peter E. Blessing, D.D. V.G.
- Reverend Robert Slavin, O.P.
- Reverend Daniel M. Galliher, O.P.
- Reverend Gerald F. Dillon
- Reverend Thomas Cassidy
- Reverend John J. Kenny
- Reverend Edward A. Higney
- Reverend James R. Bartley
- Reverend James A. Fitzsimon
- Mr. Robert Goelet
- Dr. Ray Deferrari
- Dr. Michael Walsh
- The Honorable J. Howard McGrath

- The Honorable Edmund W. Flynn
- The Honorable Jeremiah O'Connell
- The Honorable Francis McCabe
- The Honorable Mortimer Sullivan
- The Honorable Arthur Sullivan
- Dr. Michael Sullivan
- Mr. J. T. O'Connell
- Mr. Rudolph Haffenreffer
- Mr. Beverly Bogart
- Mr. Samuel Marino
- Mr. James H. Foley
- Mrs. Walter Davidson
- Miss Mary Lee
- Miss Mary R. Egan
- Mother Mary Matthew Doyle, RSM President
- Mother M. Hilda Miley, RSM Vice President
- Sister Mary James O'Hare, RSM Dean
- Sister M. Martina Conley, RSM Registrar

Added to the Advisory Board in 1949 were the following:

- Honorable Francis T. McCanna
- Doctor John Donley
- Mr. Frank O'Connell
- Mr. Walter Farrell

- Miss Nellie Dillon
- Miss Lillian McMahon
- Miss Alice Mullin
- Miss T. Regina O'Donnell

The academic administration of the College was in the capable hands of Sister Mary James O'Hare, the first dean, until her untimely death in 1953. As we review all the aspects of the early development of the College, intellectual, spiritual, and social, the quality of her leadership cannot be overestimated.

Her primary concern was the establishment of a sound curriculum. She was successful in having it reviewed and refined by Roy Defarrari, Ph.D., Secretary General of the Catholic University. He made the first of many visits to the College in February 1948. Faculty input provided a practicum and critique relative to its adaptability. For this purpose, James Marshall Campbell, Ph.D., Dean of the Catholic University, also addressed and advised the faculty concerning areas of concentration. As a result, in 1949 *Salve Regina College* became officially affiliated with the Catholic University. We find in the first catalog of 1948 a description of the early curriculum, a summary of which follows:

For the conferring of the degree students must have satisfactorily completed 128 semester hours plus four semester hours prescribed for physical education.

Basic courses for freshmen included religion, history, English, a foreign language, mathematics, science, speech, and physical education. The total number of hours equaled sixty-four.

In May of the freshman year, each student selected a field of concentration under the direction of a major advisor. The subject of concentration was chosen from the following groups: *Languages, Literature, Fine Arts, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences*, with a requirement of twenty-four semester hours. In May of the Senior year, each student was required to pass a comprehensive examination within the chosen field of concentration.

At this time, the vitality of the life of the College, in that first year especially, depended upon the spirit of the first class as it responded to the call for leadership within its own sphere of action. Unwittingly, a community was being formed made up of all the elements essential to the life of an institution: traditions were being established; recognition and acceptance within other collegiate circles and within the civic community were gradually being realized. All eyes were upon us. The first members of the class were our ambassadors of good will.

One of their first concerns was the formation of the Student Government Organization, which saw as its primary aim "to effect a closer liaison with the administration and student body and to become the source of all social, mediatory, and disciplinary action." The Student Council, newly organized, began the task of editing the official Student Handbook of rules and framing a constitution that would serve to uphold the ideals of *Salve Regina College*.

Within the span of the first semester the *Sodality of Our Lady* was also established. *The Queen's Choristers* and *Salve Regina Players* initiated their first productions, and by December 18, 1947, the first issue of *Ebb Tide*, the school paper, was published.

Likewise the *Discussion Club* and the *International Relations Club* came to be identified with the *New England Catholic Students Peace Organization* in its discussions on such topics as "American Foreign Policy," "Russia, a Threat to World Peace," and "Christian Bases of World Peace." Before the year came to a close, the club was the hostess to a *Trilateral Conference* composed of students from Holy Cross and Providence College. The agenda of the meeting centered around three main issues of current events: "Political Reconstructing of Western Europe," "The Marshall Plan," and the "United Nations." The College, too, became affiliated with the *National Federation of Catholic Colleges*. We were no longer insular.

Emphasis was also being placed on the relationship of Salve Regina College to the needs of the society in which it moved. Mercy education from the time of Mother McAuley had always been distinguished by the hallmark of Service. For the Salve Regina students to be true to this heritage, it could not be otherwise.

Some students, utilizing their past experiences as Girl Scouts, became assistant leaders at the religious and social centers that sponsored Girl Scout Troops in Newport. They not only gave instruction in sewing, knitting, health care, and good grooming, but also, upon request, introduced a study of parliamentary law. One ambitious student organized a Brownies Glee Club!

Under the sponsorship of the Sodality, the Christmas activities of 1947 revealed a truly Christian dimension by a party given to the underprivileged children of the Newport schools. This came to be a tradition for many years. It was later celebrated as close as possible to December 12, the date of the foundation of the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and the vow-day of Mother McAuley in 1831. In very truth, on these occasions the hungry were fed, the poorly clad were clothed, little hearts made glad by Santa and his elves, and little minds enriched by the simplicity of the Christmas story. The generous, wholehearted response of the student body through the years to the children of the poor is one of the most cherished memories in our history.

A broader base for interest in the apostolate of the Church was the work of the *Mission Club* and the activity of both the *International Relations Club* and the *Queen's Choristers* in the International Student Relief Campaign.

The second quarter of the school year closed with the Christmas festivities involving the candlelight procession down the Grand Staircase. Christmas carols and the enactment of the Christmas Pageant before the crib in the Great Hall and, of course, a dinner in the Great Dining Room, highlighted the season. Thus another tradition came to be established.

The second semester of the first year of the College was notable in many respects. Early in the month of February, both Mr. and Mrs. Goelet visited the College and were very impressed with the remarkable practical use that had been made of Ochre Court in its adaptation as a college building. On February 6, 1948, Mr. Goelet declared his intention of giving to the College the garage and land on the corner of Leroy and Lawrence Avenues. This property later became known as Mercy Hall. In addition to this, he waived rights to the stained glass window overlooking the Great Hall as well as to several paintings. The window had been acquired by Mr. Goelet's father, Ogden, from the famous Spitzer Collection.

Academically the semester was opened by the first investiture of the students in cap and gown, a ritual taking place in the drawing room after the morning Mass. Father Dillon, attired in his cap and gown, invested each girl, saying the following prayer as he placed the cap upon her head:

"Receive this garb of honor which is conferred as a sacred symbol of science and truth, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

At this time, also, Sister Mary James announced the names of the four students on the Dean's List as well as the six who received honor roll marks.

During this semester, steps were taken to interest the students in expanding their professional interests. In the light of this fact, much consideration had been given previously by the administration and faculty regarding the introduction of a degree in nursing. Sister Miriam Francis, OSF, of St. Joseph Hospital and Mrs. Mary Halton, head of the Nursing League in Providence, discussed with the students the requirements for attaining such a degree as well as openings in the field. Information relative to the opportunities in the fields of the Social Sciences, as well as Social Work, was made available by Mrs. Catherine Cooney of the Rhode Island Welfare Bureau and Mrs. Eleanor Breggs, chairman of the Educational Council of Social Work.

While the intellectual growth of the College was supplemented through the many clubs already mentioned, including also the French Club and the Home Economics Club, this growth was further nourished by the caliber of the lecturers who opened to the students the current scholarship in the world of the arts and sciences.

Among the speakers were such well-known persons as Carol Jackson, editor of *Integrity*, whose topic was "What Am I Going to Make of My Life?" Mr. Edward Weeks, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, opened deeper insights for his audience in his elaboration of "Different Aspects of Literature." On a more informal level, Mr. John Greene lectured on "Newport Past and Present" as a kind of introduction to its political and social history. Mrs. Mary Lasswell, author, interior decorator, and pianist furthered their literary efforts by her presentation, "The Young Writer."

Socially, in the second semester, the Court Cotillion, first formal dance on May 30, far surpassed in "elegance" the Freshman Frolic and Tea Dance with Providence College in the first semester.

One of the most important developments in this initial year was the organization and debut of the Salve Regina Guild as an integral supportive factor in the growth of the College. Its birthday was May 20, 1948. The Salve Regina Guild was an offshoot of the Marian Motherhood Assembly and the Catholic Teachers conclave, both associated with the Sisters of Mercy of St. Xavier Academy. The chief purpose of the guild was the advancement of Salve Regina College in all its aspects: spiritual, intellectual, social, and material. Most of the early members of the Guild came from various areas of Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts. Four regular meetings were conducted each year: October, November, April, and May. An important event annually was the bridge, usually held in October.

The Guild also regularly sponsored visits of lecturers, musicians, and artists of note. Among these were Reverend John Bonn, S.J., poet and dramatist; Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester; Michael O'Duffy, noted Irish tenor; and William G. Schofield, author and commentator on important issues of the day. The culmination of the year's activities was the Silver Tea which took place in May or early June at Ochre Court. For many years this tea honored the graduates of the College.

Indeed, the Salve Regina Guild acted as an ambassador of good will heralding the name and progress of Salve Regina College. Intimately interested in its faculty, its students, its dreams, and its hopes, the Guild was a vibrant and life-giving source of support in these early years.

The dedication of the 1956 yearbook, the *Regina Maris*, to the Salve Regina Guild gives full expression to the realization that the Guild was not simply an adjunct to the development of the College; rather the Salve Regina Guild was a presence "mothering" every need and encouraging every hope.

Dedication

On September 21, 1947, Salve Regina College opened its doors to its first freshman class of fifty-nine students. During the ensuing months the faculty, realizing that an auxiliary organization would be a definite asset to the College, began plans for the formation of such a group. By April, 1948 all plans and preliminaries were completed, and the Salve Regina College Guild was a long sought reality, with Reverend Gerald Dillon as its Moderator and Mrs. Frank D. Fogarty as its first President. From the initial seventy-five members, the Guild increased year by year until it reached a total of two thousand fifty-one. The Guild "mothered" the College through its years of infancy and is now continuing to do so in these, its childhood years. And it will, we are confident, ever prove a real mother as childhood develops into maturity and maturity into old age.

The marvelous assistance that the Guild is able to give to the College is due, in no small measure, to the inspiring leadership of its first President, Mrs. Frank D. Fogarty who, with her able Executive Board, planned, sacrificed, and accomplished so much culturally, educationally, and spiritually for the College.

From the zealous first president, Mrs. Fogarty, to the present incumbent, Mrs. James Lynch, all intervening Presidents, with their Executive Boards, have emulated the spirit of the first year and have thus brought the Guild to its present status of success and devotion to the College. The members of the Guild are part and parcel of the College Community, sharing in the advancement of the College in all its aspects spiritual, academic and social while both faculty and students look upon them as a vital factor in the success of the College. All believe that one of the greatest blessings for the organization is that Reverend Gerald Dillon was appointed by His Excellency, Russell J. McVinney, D.D., our Most Reverend Bishop, as Moderator for the Guild. Under Father's spiritual leadership the Guild has reached its present peak of glory and achievement.

To Reverend Father Dillon, to Presidents past and present, to all Executive Board members, Committee members, to each individual who has given of herself to the Guild, faculty and students of Salve Regina College sing a Te Deum in appreciation and dedicate this REGINA MARIS, the yearbook of the Class of 1956, as a token of deep gratitude to the Salve Regina College Guild.

In retrospect much had been accomplished as the year came to a close with the dedication of the College to Our Lady of Fatima and the Sacred Heart. Another much needed building was about to be opened come September. In addition, Salve Regina was no longer on the periphery of the Catholic Colleges in the East. The College had been chosen as the host for a three-day workshop sponsored by the New England Region of the Federation of Catholic Colleges, composed of twenty Catholic Colleges of men and women in the area. In

addition, for the first class there was another year to look forward to with the anticipation of a new role to be assumed, that of being Sophomores, guides and counselors of a sort for the unsure, insecure Freshmen of September 1948.

The second year of the College, 1948-1949, brought with it an increase of four instructors to augment the faculty:

Sister Mary Augustine San Souci, RSM, graduate of the Catholic University and member of the *American Nursing Association*, who introduced and directed the formation of the four-year nursing course offered in conjunction with St. Joseph Hospital.

Sister Mary Constance Landrigan, RSM, instructor in chemistry with an A.B. from Providence College and an M.A. from Boston College, a member of the *New England Chemical Teachers Association* and the *American Association for the Advancement of Science*.

Sister Mary Jean Tobin, RSM, instructor in English Literature and Composition with an A.B. from Providence College and an M.A. from the Catholic University, member of the *Catholic Poetry Society of America*.

Sister Mary Euphrasia Curtis, RSM, instructor in commerce with a degree of B.B.S., a candidate for M.A. from Catholic University, and holding memberships in the *National Business Association*, the *Catholic Educational Association*, and the *American Accounting Association*.

In addition, Mercy Hall, formerly the Goelet stables, also designed by Richard Morris Hunt, had been completely renovated during the summer. The south wing contained two laboratories, one for chemistry, the other for home economics, both furnished with the latest modern equipment. In the center wing were the locker room, shower room, and the office of the director of physical education. The north wing housed a gymnasium also capable of being converted into an auditorium with a hydraulic stage and a seating capacity of 450 persons. The second floor was renovated as a dormitory and came to be occupied by the incoming freshmen under the supervision of Sister Mary Constance and Sister Mary Augustine. The building was later blessed by Father Dillon on December 12, a date that then marked the 117th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Mercy.

The building was inspected by the Board of Advisors at their first organizational meeting on September 10, 1948. At this time, too, they immediately adopted a plan of operation dealing with finance, buildings, endowments, scholarships, and public relations.

Thus the year began propitiously with new students, a new building, new faculty, and a new President, Mother Mary Hilda Miley, also the Mother Provincial.

The progress of the school year was marked by the expansion of the curriculum, particularly in the fields of nursing and commerce. In September, 1948, the plans for a four-year baccalaureate program in nursing were realized by the appointment of Sister Mary Augustine San Souci as director, the clinical area being provided by St. Joseph Hospital. The initiation of this program was due to a very great extent to the untiring efforts of the Advisory Committee, made up of such notable nursing leaders as Margaret Kelleher, RN, Director of Nursing Education in the State of Rhode Island, and Rita Murphy, RN, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health Nursing.

The extracurricular activities in terms of the intellectual, social, and spiritual life of the College followed the traditions already established. Interaction with other New England Colleges continued to stimulate the student body by exchange of views on national and international problems. This was supplemented by the chance of prominent lecturers, among whom were Reverend Harold Gardner, S.J. Ph.D., literary editor of *America*, and Reverend Carol Bernhardt, S.J., professor of English Literature at Boston College Graduate School.

More noteworthy, perhaps, were the distinctive contributions made to the growth and reputation of the College by the students themselves.

The College publication *Ebb Tide* was accepted by the Rhode Island Press Association.

The Debating Club by a unanimous vote defeated the Debating Union of Providence College.

Three students were elected to the office of vice-president in the *New England Student Peace Federation*, the *New England Federation of Catholic Colleges*, the *Rhode Island Intercollegiate Press Association*, respectively.

Students also became active promoters of public relations in visiting the high schools in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, acquainting the student body regarding the history of the College as well as its scholastic and social life.

The Regina Players were heard over the air in a radio play, *The Symbol of the Cross*.

In the course of this academic year, the College opened its doors to the outside community by offering extension courses in the fall of 1948 on a weekly basis beginning October 14 and continuing for twenty weeks. This feature of the College, along with the summer school already established, continued to expand.

By September 14, 1949, the college community numbered 126 students, including thirty-five freshmen. The group now consisted of students from various points in New England, as well as from New York, New Jersey, British Honduras, and Central America. In addition six new faculty members were added.

Reverend John Shea, B.A., instructor in sociology; chaplain of the Carmelite monastery in Newport, a former student at Providence College whose preparation for the priesthood was made at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

Sister Mary Christopher O'Rourke, RSM, B.A., instructor in sociology; a graduate of Pembroke College with a B.S. degree, a social worker for the State Department, a teacher in the Homeo-pathic School of Nursing and Catholic Teachers College.

Sister Mary Donald Egan, RSM, B.A., instructor in English, speech; a graduate of Notre Dame of Maryland with a B.A. degree, a student at Providence College and presently majoring in speech at Boston College.

Sister Mary John Francis McKenna, RSM, B.A. instructor in Spanish; a graduate of Providence College.

Sister Mary Mercedes Quinton, RSM, Ph.B., M.A. instructor in art.

Sister Mary Kathleen Reynolds, RSM, B.S., instructor in foods.

Besides the addition of the new faculty and new students, the first Honors Convocation was convened on September 23, 1949, presided over by Bishop Russell J. McViney. The academic address was given by Very Reverend Robert J. Slavin, O.P., President of Providence College. Four top students, two juniors and two

sophomores, received shoulder fourrageres. Eight other students were named to the Dean's list for scholastic excellence.

In December, the first art exhibit, extending over a period of five days, attracted over 500 visitors. Prizes were offered to four students, while six received honorable mention. The judges were Miss Mary Powers and Miss Mary O'Donnell of the Providence Public Schools and Reverend Manuel Rego, an artist and acting pastor of Jesus Savior Church.

Consistent with the tradition of service already a part of the life of the College, the members of the sociology class, through the efforts of Newport Chapter of the Red Cross and the Newport School Department, launched a new community project. The students became involved in weekly visits to handicapped children at their homes, teaching handicrafts, providing entertainment, and in general developing programs adapted to their needs and capacities.

As usual during the course of the year, prominent lecturers provided a broadening of student interests beyond the classroom. Among them were Dorothy Day, author, lecturer, and co-founder of *The Catholic Worker*. Both her presence and her portrayal of the miserable conditions of the poor in New York's Bowery district were powerful in their impact in raising the social consciousness of her hearers. Mr. Albert J. McAloon, Prevention Coordinator of the Rhode Island Juvenile Court, explored with the students the implications of a topic, then timely, "The Catholic Looks at Psychiatry." Mr. Frank O'Malley, professor of English at Notre Dame University, examined the relationship between "Religion and Literature."

During this year, too, another ritual was added along with that related to the receiving of the Cap and Gown and the Christmas festivities; namely, the Ring Ceremony and the Sapphire Ball. The first College ring was made up of an oval star sapphire in a square setting. On each side of the ring was the College seal and the Mercy insignia. The rings were presented by Mother Mary Hilda, President, at an afternoon ceremony preceding the dance. The Grand March, through a giant ring erected at the entrance of the Great Hall, was the highlight of the Sapphire Ball together with a three-tiered cake decorated in the class colors.

The year moved on to the Court Cotillion and final exams, lest we forget.

The September of 1950 changed the status of the College to a stabilized senior college with four classes totaling 140 students. The roster of students now included nine foreign students: two from China, three from Colombia, and four from Belize, Central America.

Sister Marie Therese LeBeau, RSM, librarian; Sister Mary Venard Benoit, RSM, commerce department; Sister Mary Philemon Banigan, RSM, chemistry department; and Mrs. Georgette Ramos, Ph.D., French literature were welcomed as faculty members. In addition to the bestowal of honors at the second Honors Convocation held September 26, seven members of the first class of nurses received their caps.

The Student Government Organization officially accepted their responsibilities for the coming year. The Spanish Club, *El Circulo Salamanca*, joined the *National Affiliation of Spanish Clubs* sponsored by Columbia University. The French Club, *Circle Francais*, inaugurated special classes in French conversation and sponsored a series of lectures.

Representatives of Newport social agencies met to discuss the possibility of field experiences in social welfare for students majoring in sociology. The delegates from the *Juvenile Court*, the *Red Cross Home Service*, and the *Newport Community Center*, together with the director of public welfare and the public assistance case supervisors, were vitally interested.

Early in November the former summer home of Mrs. Ishen Gilbert, located on Ochre Point Avenue, was received as a gift from Cornelius Moore in memory of his parents John J. and Katherine M. Moore. This generous contribution, to be used as a residence hall, called Moore Hall, filled a definite need for expansion and increased enrollment. By November 17, 1950, Salve Regina had acquired three buildings: Ochre Court, Golet stables (Mercy Hall), and Moore Hall.

December, the month of festivities and good will, featured a Christmas play, *Christ is Born*, a joint concert of Queen's Choristers with Manhattan College, and the traditional Christmas Pageant and Processional to the Crib. Parties in the dorms and exchange of gifts added a personal touch.

The second semester brought with it some advances in the student life of the College. One of the first was the formation of the *Diplomatist Club*, the first of its kind in New England. It was initiated by Mr. Alfred Rego of Bristol, head of the Spanish and American Consulates in Providence, and Sister Mary John Francis McKenna. Its aim was to promote good will between America and other foreign countries in anticipation of the role foreign students in our colleges would assume in their own nations. Hopefully, too, it would provide contact with foreign students in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Our foreign students at this time were also the guests of Mrs. Mary Lasswell, a friend and lecturer at the College. They were not a forgotten part of the College community.

The Alliance Francaise observed the 2,000th anniversary of the founding of Paris with the presentation of five tableaux written by Dr. Georgette Ramos, French teacher and moderator of the club, together with an address by Monsieur Lapierre of Boston, assistant French Consult of New England.

The centennial year, 1951, commemorating the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in Providence, was fittingly recognized in a pageant on the life of Mother Catherine McAuley, written by the members of the Sodality, and the first induction of five members of the class of 1951 into Sigma Phi Sigma, the Mercy Honor Society. In this centennial year, also, the first yearbook, *Regina Maris*, made its appearance, proving a worthwhile supplement to the early history of the College.

During these years, simultaneously with the development of the College on the various levels of student life, much direction was also being given to its formation and organization on an administrative level.

As we study the minutes of the faculty meetings from 1947 to 1951, we discover how much was accomplished in the process of establishing an institution to be accepted among others of its kind. We find that one of the first concerns was the importance of the library for professional reading, research, as well as its use by students. The faculty were urged to update their reading lists in relation to their own fields of concentration.

Discussions were held concerning the primary and secondary aims of the College together with the distinction between liberal education and general education and culminating in a consideration of the purpose of a Catholic Liberal Arts College. Faculty became familiar with the catalog and aims of the College as well as the College Handbook. They were further encouraged to join the national and regional learned societies related to their special fields. Several meetings were given over to the development of a guidance program, which came to

be realized officially in February 1950. The nuclei of what are now the counseling and tutorial services, as well as the orientation program, were organized.

Much deliberation was concerned with the marking system proposed by Dr. Deferrari of the Catholic University. A whole day in June 1949 was reserved under the expert guidance of Dr. James Marshall Campbell, Dean of the Catholic University, for a consideration of "The Purpose, the Procedure, and the Value of a Concentration in the College Curriculum."

Together with the introduction of the nursing program, the most important educational development was the drawing up of an agreement between Salve Regina College and the School Committee of the City of Newport on March 7, 1951, thus inaugurating a formal program of teacher training in the elementary grades. This agreement was signed by Mother Mary Hilda, President of the College; Sister Mary James, the Dean; Mr. Carl Porter-Shirley, superintendent of the Newport Schools; and Mr. Edward Corcoran, chairman of the school committee.

The first catalog summarizes succinctly the results of those first four years as follows: *Affiliation* with the Catholic University of America in Washington; *Accreditation* by the National Catholic Educational Association as well as by the State Department of Education; *Faculty Membership* in eighteen National Education Associations.

The year was climaxed by the first of the commencement exercises with the Baccalaureate Mass at St. Mary's Church and the organization of the Alumnae Association with Miss Eleanor Testa as the first president. On June 4, 1951, on the terrace of Ochre Court, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees were conferred upon fifty-three graduates, among whom were those who attended the Extension School. The Honorable Edmund Flynn, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Rhode Island, former member of the first Advisory Board and faithful friend of the College addressed the graduates. Awards were given for excellence in French, English, history, home economics, sociology, and commercial studies. The editorial in the *Newport Daily News* extended its congratulations to the faculty and graduates marking the College as an asset to the Newport community economically and culturally.

The years 1947-1951 are indeed memorable in the history of Salve Regina College not only because of the pioneer spirit which inspired them but also because of the challenge they bequeathed to us. The future lay before us.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ All the material in this chapter has been taken from the Archives of Salve Regina University.