

A School Is Born



My room is too cold. My room is too hot. It's humid in here. There's a stain on my carpet. The color of my room is ugly. Can I get it painted? My door sticks. My computer is slow. I don't think my air filter is working. I need new chairs and desks.

Ugh!!! If only I could go back to an easier, more simple time.....

St. Columbkille Parish had been established in 1877; however, the decision to start a parish school wasn't made until February 24, 1916. The trustees along with the Bishop's representative, and Father Hoheisel agreed to have the school up and running by the next fall.

They had to erect a school building, secure teachers, recruit students, and complete a myriad of other tasks in just 6 months! Father Hoheisel was a graduate of St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas, and it is very likely that he used his ties there to obtain the services of the Benedictine Sisters to provide the teachers for the school.

The nuns arrived on time, but unfortunately there were construction delays on the school building, so it was not ready by the time school was supposed to start. Undaunted by this "minor inconvenience" the sisters decided to start school anyway. When 40 students showed up for the first day of school the sisters took them into the church, had them sit on the kneelers, and they used the seats of the pews for their desks!

The sisters and students were finally able to move into the new school building on October 12th. Even though they had moved into the building, it was not completely finished. The sisters and students had to climb ladders to get to the two rooms that were ready for them. Meanwhile they held school in a construction zone as the men worked all day long trying to get the building finished before winter. By November they finally got the heating system installed.

Ahhhhh.....warmth. What a blessing!

In His Service,

Jim Makey, Principal