1863 June 1
Four Marianites of the Holy Cross, namely
Moes Sisters: Alfred and Barbara
Sister Alberta Stockhoff and Sister Bernard Peacard
receive the Franciscan Rule of the Third Order Regular
from Fr. Theodore Vanderpoel, a Tertian authorized by
Rev. Pamfilo da Magliano, Custos Provincial of Friars Minor,
Allegany, New York, also the Founder of St. Bonaventure
University and the Allegany Franciscan Sisters.

1863 Nov. 4
At the invitation of Rev. Carl Kuemin, pastor of St. John
Joliet, and a friend of Rev. J. Rachor of St. John,
Indiana, M. Alfred and Sr. Bernard began to teach the
girls at St. John School, Joliet, IL. Mr. Joseph Wehengel
continued to teach the boys.
Annals: "On their arrival in Joliet the Sisters took up their
temporary abode in the upper story of a stone house,
situated on Broadway near Division street, belonging to
Jacob Hauser. An outside stairway led to their
apartments."
"Lena Long and Eliza Wehrle, of St. John's Indiana boarded
with the Sisters and attended St. John School (Joliet).
The former was a daughter of a wealthy farmer, the latter
a niece of Fr. Wehrle, the pastor of St. John, Indiana."

1864 March 23
First "Homestead", a small stone house and two lots
adjoining lot on northeast corner of Broadway and Division
Sts, in Joliet, purchased from Archibald McIntyre
for $600 cash.

1864 July 31 SEE typed annals p. 15 given in retrospect
Lightning sets fire to St. John's Church during Sunday
Mass. Several people are killed including Mrs. Hartmann,
the mother of several small children. Mr. Hartmann brings
the children to Mother Alfred and asks her to care for
them, thus the first orphans. There is a record of
Mr. Hartmann's payments for their care.

1864 August
Sr. Barbara Moes and Sr. Alberta Stockhoff take charge of
school in Kickapoo, IL: St. Mary/St. Patrick united
parishes. Resigned in June, 1866.

1865 August 2
Rev. Pamfilo da Magliano, at St. Bonaventure's, Allegany,
NY, appoints M. Alfred Moes to head the new Congregation
of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, the first
Franciscan Sisters in the state of Illinois.
On the same occasion the first novice, Sister Angela
Rosenberger, is received. She was Mary Ann Rosenberger
of Peoria County, IL, and had been a postulant since March
24, 1865.
1866 July
House and lot in Mendota, IL, property purchased situated near Holy Cross Church for $800
N.B. Sold in June, 1880 for $400

1866 August
First annual retreat: Rev. Ivo Prass, Capuchin from Mt. Calvary, WI, Sept. 3 closing with Sr. Angela making vows in St. John's church in a ceremony involving many children from the school.

1866
Sr. Anthony Hupp received as a novice in Mendota, IL by Fr. Ivo Prass on Aug. 29. She came to Joliet on Aug. 30 to become the first HOUSEKEEPER.

1867 April until the Fall
Sr. Benedicta Fabry of Allegany, NY, commissioned by Fr. Pamfilo to Joliet as Mistress of Novices and Postulants.
N.B. Sister Benedicta died Feb. 24, 1868 in Allegany, N.Y. with pleurisy.

NOTE ON THE "HABIT"
Annals, p. 7 typed version
"We would here draw attention to the fact that although the Sisters at St. Elizabeth Convent at Allegany, NY, wore a brown habit, Sister Alfred at the time of her affiliation asked the privilege for herself and her three companions to be permitted at least for the first few years, to wear a black habit and black cord, for the reason that the brown habit and white cord might appear too conspicuous here in the West, the people not being accustomed to seeing female religious in a brown garb. Consequently, the first four Sisters, as also the two novices invested previous to 1867, wore black habits and black cords. It will be remembered that the community of Franciscan Sisters at Joliet was the first of that Order in the State of Illinois."
Annals, p. 8 typed version
"The community now numbered five professed Sisters and seven novices. It was then (Aug. 24, 1867) that the black habit and black cord were exchanged for the brown habit and white cord. The material of the habits was the same as worn by the Sisters in Allegany; a brown waterproof."

1867
Fr. Pamfilo da Magliano recalled to Rome, Italy.
His secretary, Fr. Diomede Falconio, commissioned to give Mother Alfred spiritual guidance.

1867 Dec. 4
Sr. Ignatius Hartigan dies with typhoid fever.

1868 June
House and lot in Freeport, IL, on Pleasant St. next to the School/St. Joseph Church with 2 lots for $1,500
School opened on August 23.
N.B. Sold to St. Joseph Parish for $500 in January, 1898
1869 January 4
Purchased the corner house and lot on north side adjoining the Sisters' first homestead, from John Scheidt for $850

1868-1869
Built front addition to the little Convent, first homestead, without modern improvements excepting gas and ordinary sewer convenience, for $2,500, extra work for $560, Total:$3,060.
Blessed by Rev.Peter Zimmer, CSSR, on Feast of St. Alexius, July 17, also reception and profession ceremonies at end of retreat.

1869
Annals, typed version p. 10 bottom
"Now the Sisters began what was termed a SELECT SCHOOL. It consisted of a few boarders and day scholars. One of the Sisters was occupied all day giving music lessons.

1869
Sr. Bernard Peacard leaves the community. Annals,p.11
Rev.Dennis Dunne, VG, friend of M.Alfred died.

1870 January 25
Permission given to have the Blessed Sacrament permanently in the Chapel, a room measuring 22 feet by 16 feet.

1870 July 2

1870- 1871
Bought adjoining lots south of convent in the following order:
First lot south of convent from Joseph Warner for $1,200 (house was retained by owner and moved on Bluff St.)
Second lot of Joseph Bapst for $1,125
Third and fourth lots of Henry Krieche1 for $2,200 (The two stories stone house on these lots were torn down by owner and stone used for re-building)

1870 Fall
Annals, p. 14
"...necessary to enlarge the Motherhouse...financially aided by income...not least by a fortune to which Mother Alfred and her sister became heirs at that time and which they devoted entirely to the noble purpose."

1870-1871
Built second addition to convent for the sum of $13,440 by contract and $2,000 for extra work
Completed complex now called ST FRANCIS CONVENT AND ACADEMY.
1871 July 20
Bishop Thomas Foley of Chicago dedicated the new Convent and Academy, and also administered the sacrament of Confirmation to some postulants.

1871 October 9
Chicago fire, typed annals p. 17

1872 October
Bought of Charles Hill 40 acres of land situated about 5 miles due south of Joliet for $2,000

1873 January
Bought of Michael Rappel 106 acres adjoining the above for $7,000

N.B. Farm, total of 146 acres for $9,000; $61.64 per acre
Sold for $7,000 to Nicholas Korst and his wife
$47.95 per acre in 1881

1873 November 26
Sr. Gabriel Ulrich, Annals p.21

1874
Built stone wall on north and east sides of convent on Broadway and Division Sts. at cost of $1,300 ($1,500)

1874
Bought 35 (37½) acres of land known as the "Oak Hill Nursery" about 1½ miles from Joliet Court House, directly south on Chicago St. for $8,725; $249.29 per acre ($232.67)
N.B.
Sold to Julius Krause in 1882 for $4,500; $128.57($120) per acre. Near Zarley Blvd., Nowell Park today

1874 May 25
Incorporation under the laws of the State of Illinois under the title of COMMUNITY OF THE THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS OF JOLIET.

1875
Oak Hill Landscaping completed. Mother Alfred's plans for St. Francis Academy drawn for $1,100. These unused plans are available in the Heritage Room upon request.

1875
St. Malachy, Manchester, MO, abandoned. Later dying pastor sends parishioners to pay $250 owed to Sisters. See annals p. 24

1876
Bishop Foley calls for an election with the stipulation that Mother Alfred may not be elected. Our Constitutions borrowed from the Allegany Franciscan Sisters state a "one year term" but Mother Teresa O'Neill held office for 60 years under the same Constitutions!
1876 August 22
Mother Alberta is elected for one year. During that year Mother Alberta commissions M. Alfred to build academies in Minnesota in response to a request.

1876 December 23
Mother Alberta's written commission of Mother Alfred to St. Patrick, Eau Claire, WI, to build academies in MN as requested by Archbishop Grace, promising her financial support and Sisters to staff the schools

1876 Sunday, December 24
Bishop Foley writes to the pastor of St. John's, Joliet, to assemble the Sisters on the day after Christmas to inform them:
"Mother Alfred is deposed from the Superiorship, and that Mother Alberta is to be obeyed as Mother. And furthermore if my will be not regarded in this matter, I shall withdraw all spiritual aid from the community and not allow Mass to be said, or the Sacraments to be administered in the house."

1877 January 24
Mother Alberta gives written permission for M. Alfred to have the deeds to the property for the academies in MN to be written in her own name.

1877 April 24
Mother Alberta gives written permission for continuation of the academies in MN.

1877 August 13
Mother Francis Shanahan is appointed as Reverend Mother by Bishop Foley.

1877 December 8
Dedication of Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Rochester, MN.

1877 December 23
Bishop Foley's decision to separate the Congregation of Sisters as he states in a letter to Mother Francis. Mother Francis has the letter copied in the Book of Circulars; later writes several apologies for not preserving the Bishop's letter.

1877 December 27
Mother Francis informs the Sisters of Bishop Foley's decision and asks the Sisters to decide within ten days which community they intend to join, the choices being: Mother Alfred in Rochester, MN, or stay with the Joliet foundation. Mother Alfred, Sister Barbara and 23 Sisters, become the original members of the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Lourdes, Rochester, MN.
92 Sisters remain Joliet Franciscans
1879
Mother Francis and her Council begin looking for land within the city limits. Objections to the Oak Hill Nursery location were:
   Separation from the Motherhouse
   Too far from the city
   Railroad lines dangerous and inconvenient.
There is a great need for larger convent, more space for boarders, and healthier, more spacious premises; the location on Broadway considered too near the canal.

1879 November 8 - 13
Board of Directors, especially Jacob Adler and Joseph Stoos, are instrumental in finding 13½ acres (Blocks 13 and 14 in the Canal Trustees Subdivision) from William and Charlotte Strong and additional parcel from John Van Horn for total of $3,425. This purchase included a promise from the Sisters that the land would be used for an educational institution. The purchase had the approval of the Bishop in November. (Average $258.49 per acre)

1880
Mother Francis, Fr. Clementine, Sr. Angela travel to get construction ideas for the new Motherhouse. They visit St. Louis, MO, Visitation Convent and Academy and Sacred Heart Convent and Academy, the Motherhouse and Novitiate of the Precious Blood Sisters in O'Fallon, MO. Brother Adrian Wewer, OFM, is asked to draw the plans but on a smaller scale or reduced model of the latter.

Annals p. 118:
"Contracts for carpenter and mason work were not given out for bids but were let to two of Joliet's most reliable contractors: Mr. Joseph Stoos and Mr. Simon Hauser. These men had built the convent and academy on Broadway and had given satisfaction; hence the integrity of their workmanship was not questioned, nor were the Sisters disappointed in their expectations."

1880 October 4
Groundbreaking
Beginning of customary prayer of 7 Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory be's, in honor of St. Joseph for his intercession and blessing on our financial affairs.

1881 Spring
May 15 set as date for Cornerstone ceremony.
Archbishop Feehan met at Train Station by all Catholic Societies of the city, and escorted to the new Convent grounds. Music, orchestras, addresses, all part of the ceremony. Fr. Clementine spoke of the educational apostolate. Fr. Gerard also spoke almost in prophecy: "a home for the sick, feeble, and superannuated members of the community" although no sister was yet beyond 50. A banquet was prepared for the Archbishop, the clergy, Mayor Porter with the city council, the Board of Directors of the Congregation Corporation, Brother Adrian the architect, and the contractors.