It became evident that the scope of activity would have to be limited. High school enrollments were increasing; the future of Saint Francis was to lie in the field of higher education. So it was that the grammar department, with the exception of the seventh and eighth grades, were dropped, and the Academy became strictly a high school.

Dedication Of Present Building
Today Saint Francis is a day school only. At that time it was both day and boarding school, with the emphasis upon the latter. The increase in the boarders as well as in the day-student enrollment necessitated additional facilities, and in the August of 1922 the cornerstone of the present Academy, on Willses and Taylor Streets, was laid. On October 14, 1923, the building was dedicated by Archbishop, later Cardinal, George M. Mundelein.

The campus of Saint Francis is a thing of beauty. The shrubs and slender trees that stood stilly before the old Academy of 1892 have grown to flourish, towering proportions. In the spring when the apple and cherry blooms are out the scene is, without exaggeration, magnificent.

Saint Francis has always placed special stress on the power and promise of books. The Academy library today is testimony of this fact. Modern library facilities are available to the student at all times. Today’s literary men have a place on St. Francis’ shelves as well as have the classic authors of yesterday. There is a complete department of reference works where students can present their current views for the browsing student.

Catholicity Stressed
As a Catholic school, Saint Francis has always been interested in the work of the Church. The Sociology of The Lady with its extensive power for good, is her chief interest in that line. It has flourished through the years and has never been more alive than it is today when Catholic Action has become so much a part of the young Catholic American.

Guided By Educators
Through the years Saint Francis has had the guidance of splendid educational women. Sister M. Frances, who was later to head the College Normal Department, was the first principal of the Academy after it reopened in 1915. The late Sister M. Alcantara, who became first Dean of the College of Saint Francis, filled a brief term as Principal of the Academy. Sister M. Thomasina because Principal prior to her election to the office of Mother General of her Community, Sister M. Valeria, present head of Saint Mary’s High School in Columbus, Ohio, succeeded Mother Thomasina in 1925. Sister M. Mercedes, widely known as Principal of the Academy from 1931-1936, Sister M. Benigna, at present teaching in Chicago, became Principal in 1936, to be followed by Sister M. Alcantara in 1941. Sister M. Borromeo became Principal during the latter years of the administration of Sister Anacleta as Mistress of Novices.

Seven-five years have closed. The “big school on the hill” overloked the town that has grown with it, and faces the future secure in the traditions and ideals of the past.
College of St. Francis

A RESIDENT AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Joliet Illinois