

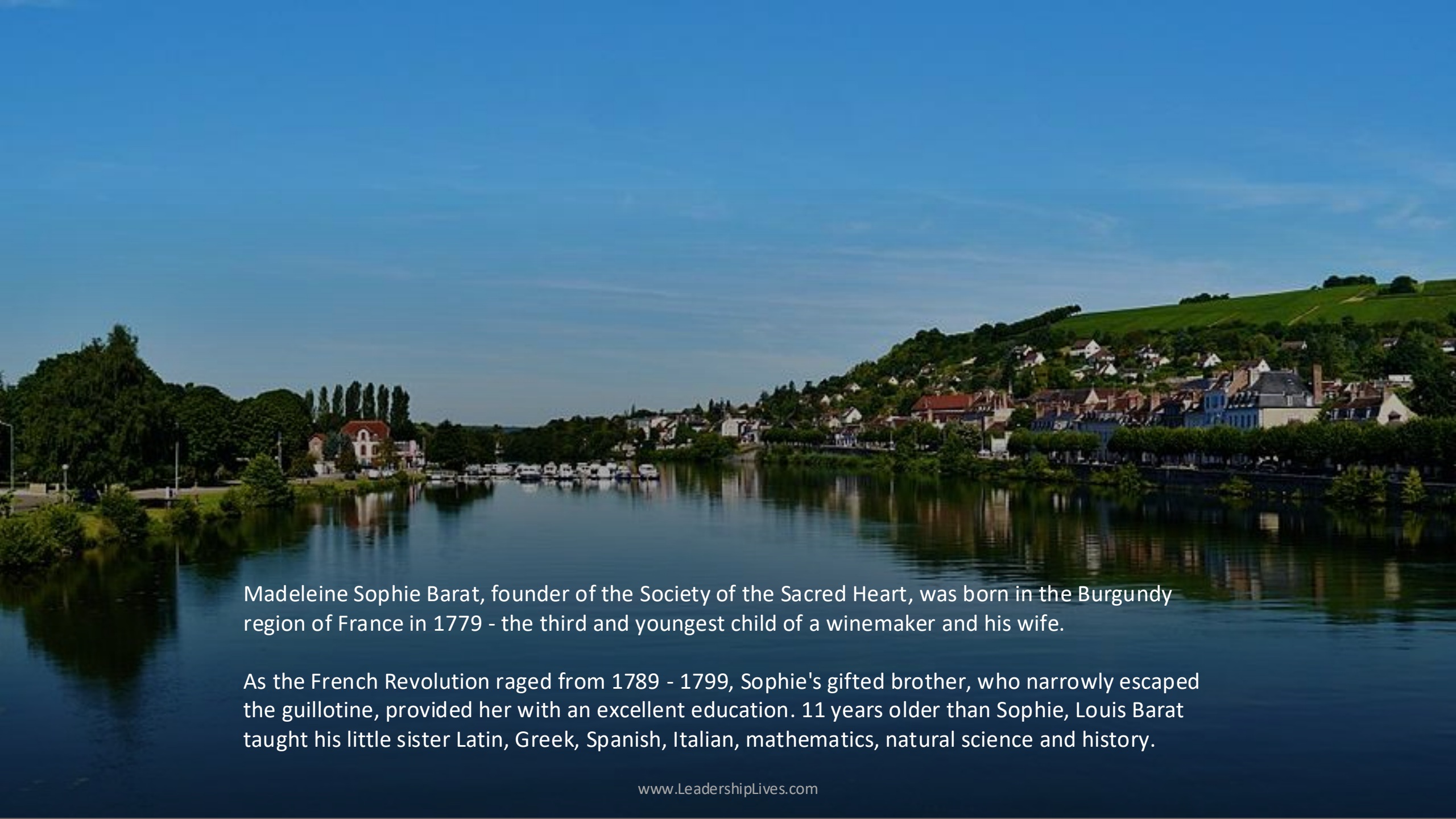
A photograph of the Newton College of the Sacred Heart campus. The image shows a large, multi-story brick building with a gabled roof and several chimneys. In the foreground, there is a well-manicured green lawn with several trees, including a large weeping tree on the left and a tall flagpole in the center. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "NEWTON COLLEGE OF THE SACRED HEART" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

NEWTON COLLEGE OF THE SACRED HEART

1946 - 1975

Margot Morrell

www.LeadershipLives.com



Madeleine Sophie Barat, founder of the Society of the Sacred Heart, was born in the Burgundy region of France in 1779 - the third and youngest child of a winemaker and his wife.

As the French Revolution raged from 1789 - 1799, Sophie's gifted brother, who narrowly escaped the guillotine, provided her with an excellent education. 11 years older than Sophie, Louis Barat taught his little sister Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, mathematics, natural science and history.

Encouraged by her brother and his Jesuit Superior, Joseph Varin, Sophie founded the Society of the Sacred Heart with three other young women in 1800. When Father Varin asked what the guiding spirit of their Order should be, they answered in one voice, "Generosity."

Their goal was to educate girls from poor and well-to-do families. The concept originated with Father Varin's mentor, Father Tournély, who had recently died at 30. Despite two failed attempts at starting an education order for women, Father Tournély died saying "*It will be.*"

Until her death in 1865, Sophie led the Order with "calm strength" and deep faith. There was never any doubt that Father Varin had found the right person to head what Sophie called, "this little Society."

Because of the era's hostility towards people of faith, the Order adopted the term, Madames of the Sacred Heart.



Madeleine Sophie Barat at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

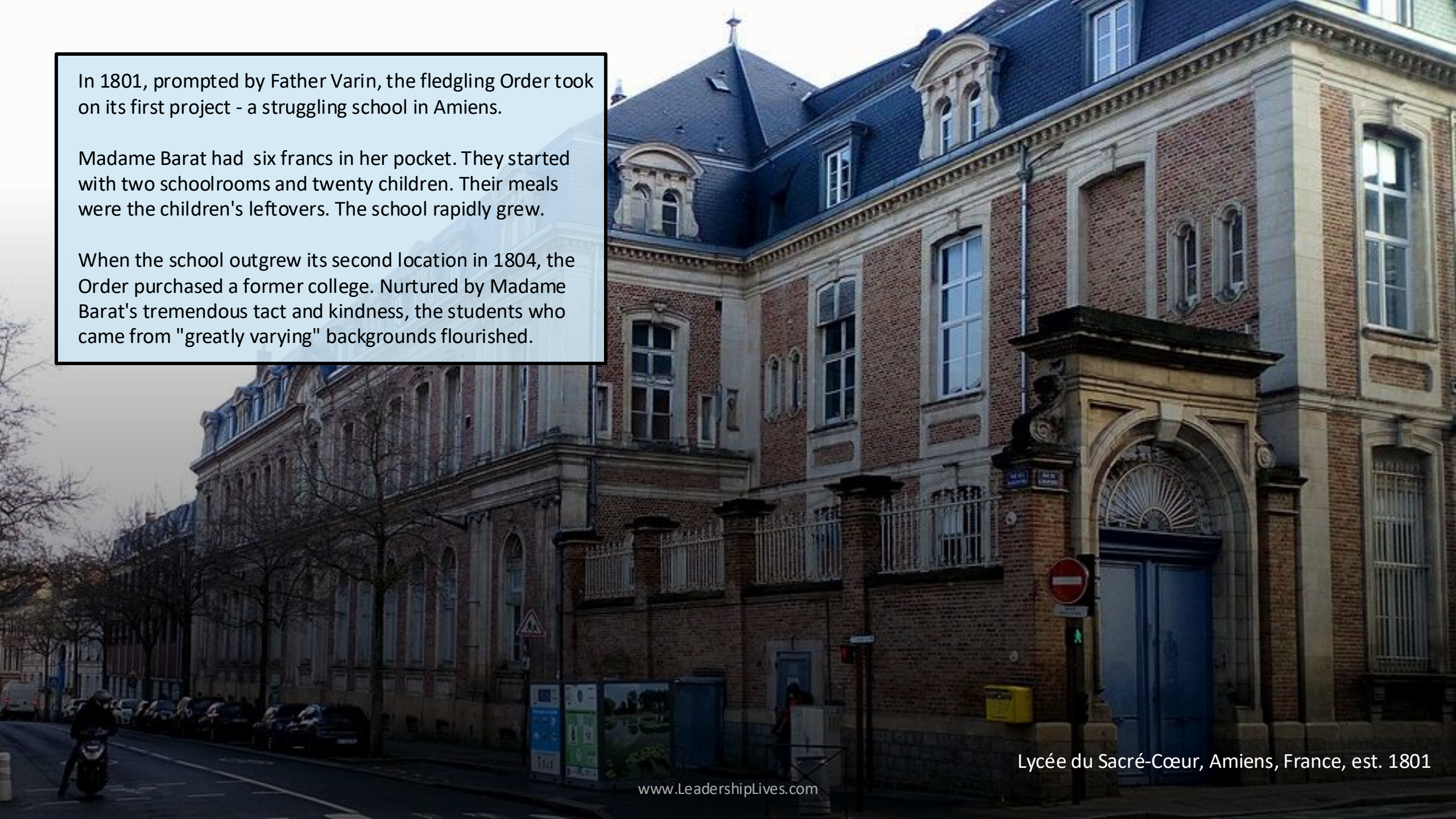
"FOR THE SAKE OF ONE CHILD, I WOULD HAVE FOUNDED THE SOCIETY."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

In 1801, prompted by Father Varin, the fledgling Order took on its first project - a struggling school in Amiens.

Madame Barat had six francs in her pocket. They started with two schoolrooms and twenty children. Their meals were the children's leftovers. The school rapidly grew.

When the school outgrew its second location in 1804, the Order purchased a former college. Nurtured by Madame Barat's tremendous tact and kindness, the students who came from "greatly varying" backgrounds flourished.

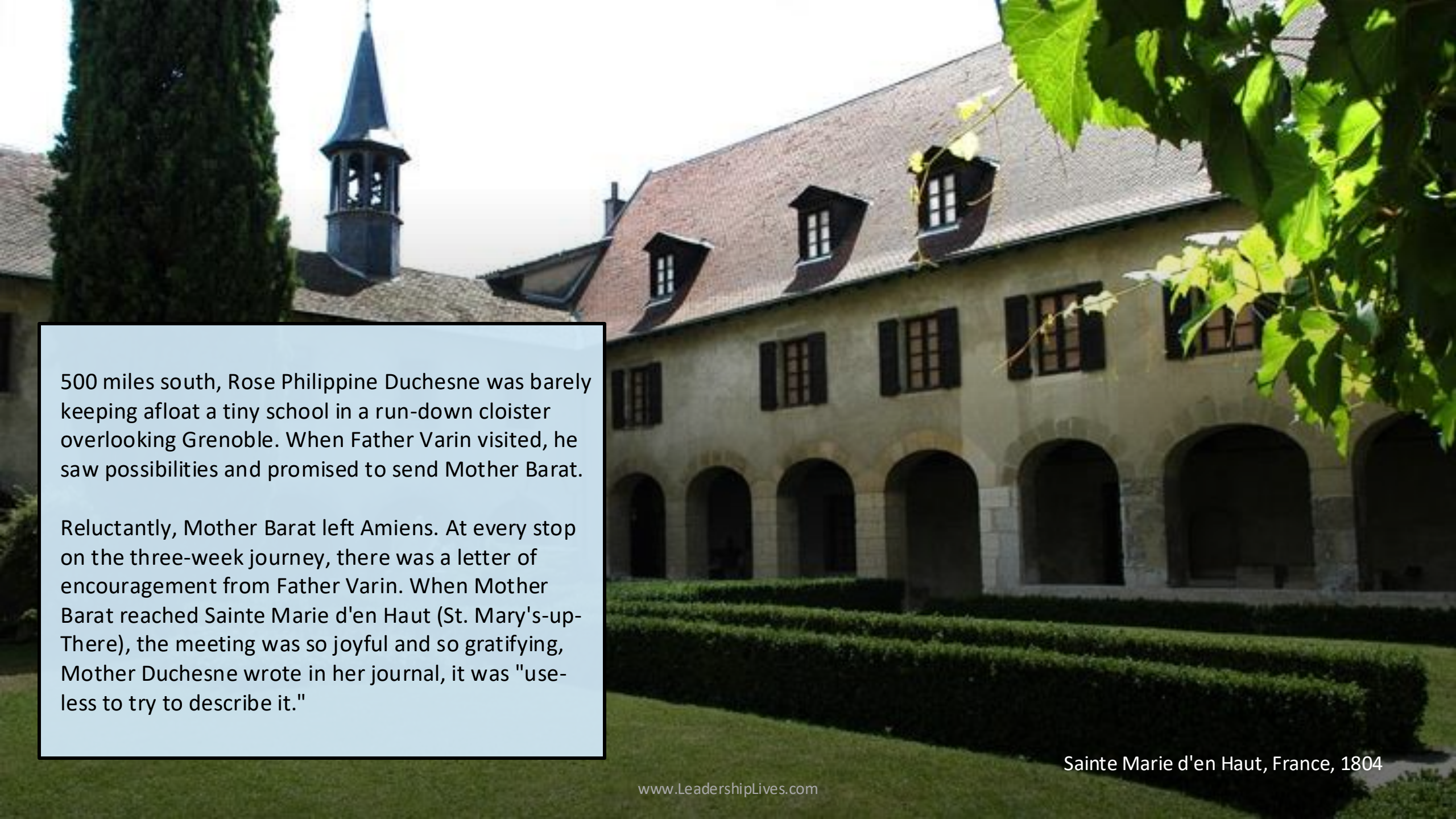


Lycée du Sacré-Cœur, Amiens, France, est. 1801



"What a good effect her arrival had on our souls! We had heard much of her virtue, piety, talents and learning. We had all felt love for sister Sophie, even before we had seen her. But when she came amongst us, her angelic modesty, her sweetness, something about her peculiar to herself won our hearts at once."

Mademoiselle (later, Mother) Genevieve Deshayes, Amiens, 1801



500 miles south, Rose Philippine Duchesne was barely keeping afloat a tiny school in a run-down cloister overlooking Grenoble. When Father Varin visited, he saw possibilities and promised to send Mother Barat.

Reluctantly, Mother Barat left Amiens. At every stop on the three-week journey, there was a letter of encouragement from Father Varin. When Mother Barat reached Sainte Marie d'en Haut (St. Mary's-up-There), the meeting was so joyful and so gratifying, Mother Duchesne wrote in her journal, it was "useless to try to describe it."

Sainte Marie d'en Haut, France, 1804



The Order continued to expand and in 1815, acquired the Hôtel Biron in a then-unfashionable Paris neighborhood. A portion of the funds were donated by Louis XVIII.

The nuns converted the building into a school, built a chapel, and lived in the outbuildings that had once housed cooks, maids and grooms. The property made the Order famous.

Eventually the French government decided property that had been given – even in part – to religious orders must be returned to the State. In 1905, the French government confiscated the property. Today it is the Musée Rodin.



Mother Barat designed a curriculum to provide a complete religious, intellectual and moral training for the students. An early biographer wrote, the students' "welfare was the constant solicitude of Mother Barat. She treated them with what has been well called a 'royal respect,' and she drew them to her by the irresistible force of her great love for them."

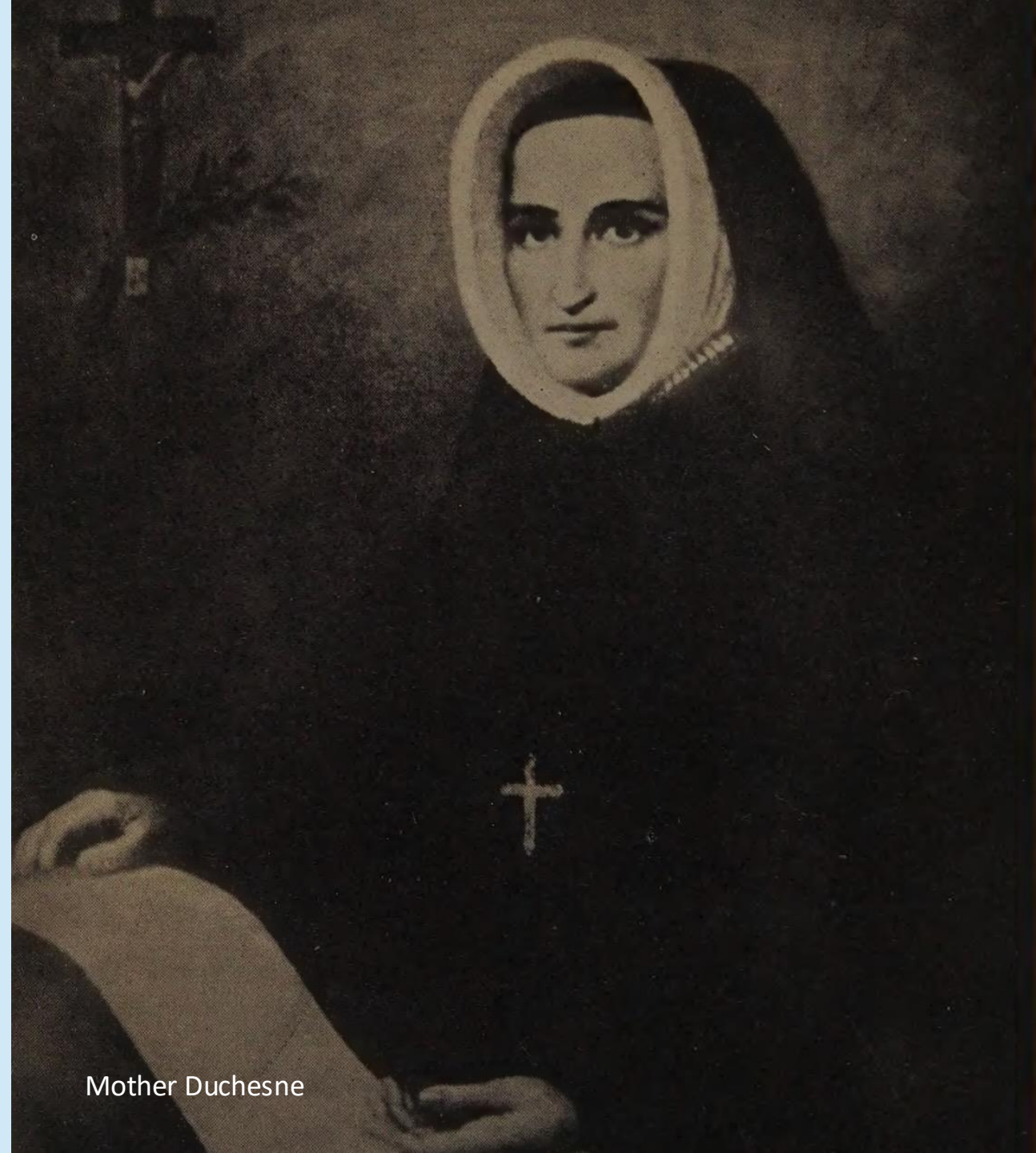
"GIVE ONLY GOOD EXAMPLE TO THE CHILDREN; NEVER CORRECT THEM WHEN OUT OF HUMOR OR IMPATIENT.
WE MUST WIN THEM BY AN APPEAL TO THEIR PIETY AND TO THEIR HEARTS.
SOFTEN YOUR REPRIMANDS WITH KIND WORDS; ENCOURAGE AND REWARD THEM.
THAT IS, IN SHORT, OUR WAY OF EDUCATING."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769 – 1852) had always wanted to be a missionary. When newly appointed Bishop Dubourg of New Orleans visited Mother Superior Barat in early 1817, her chance finally came.

The Bishop talked to Mother Barat about his mission in America and how he would be delighted to be joined by "daughters of the Sacred Heart."

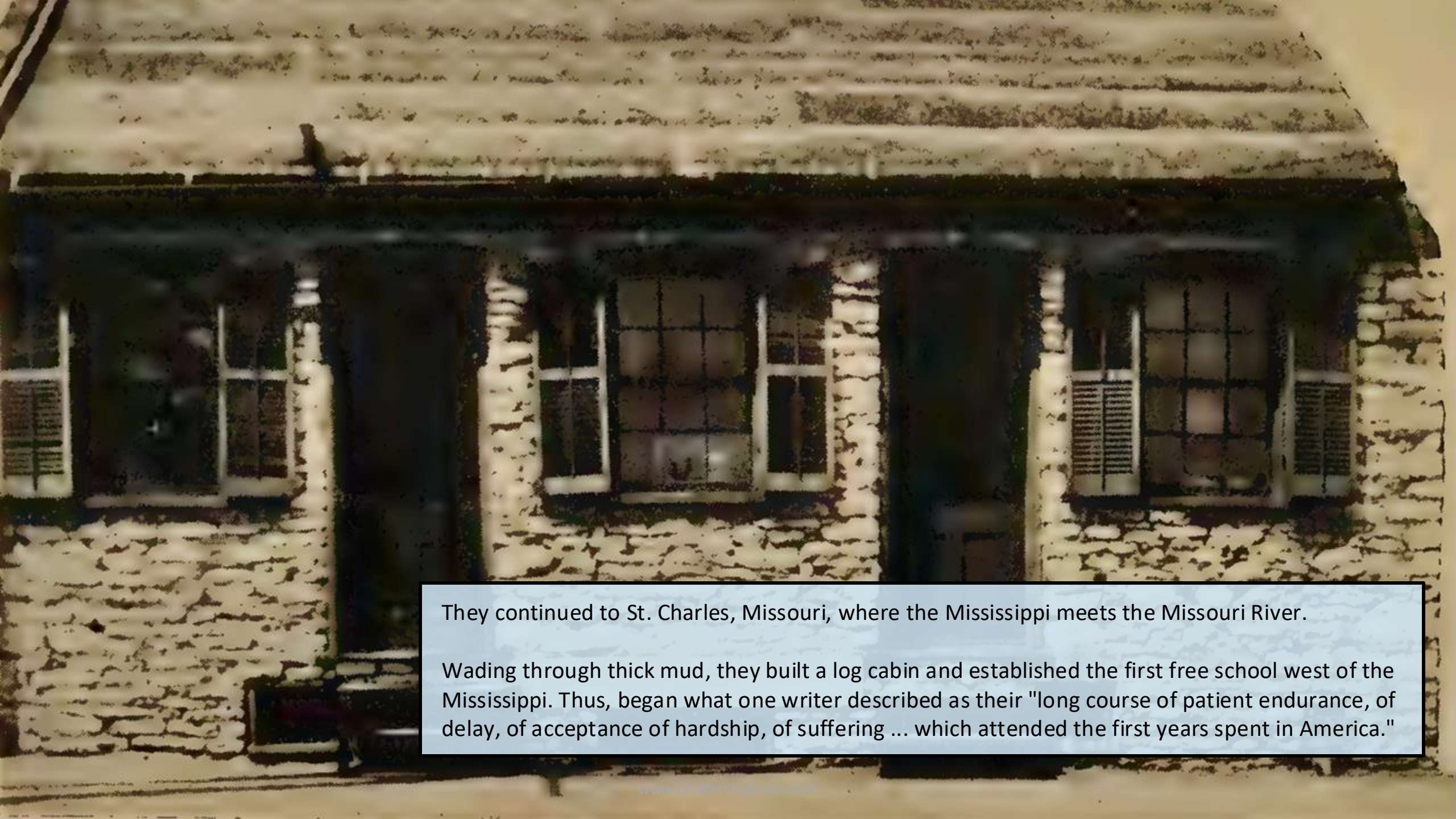
Mother Duchesne was named "Superior of the American Mission with exceptional powers" and in March 1818, Mother Duchesne with Octavie Berthold, whose father had been Voltaire's private secretary, Madame Eugénie Audé, once a glamorous socialite, and two lay sisters, boarded a ship for a two-month journey to the American wilderness.



Mother Duchesne



They landed in New Orleans and spent six weeks at the Ursuline Convent in the French Quarter. Mother Duchesne said, "This house is like one of our own convents, nowhere could we have met with more affectionate hospitality. These good nuns provide us with everything. Mothers could not do more for their children."

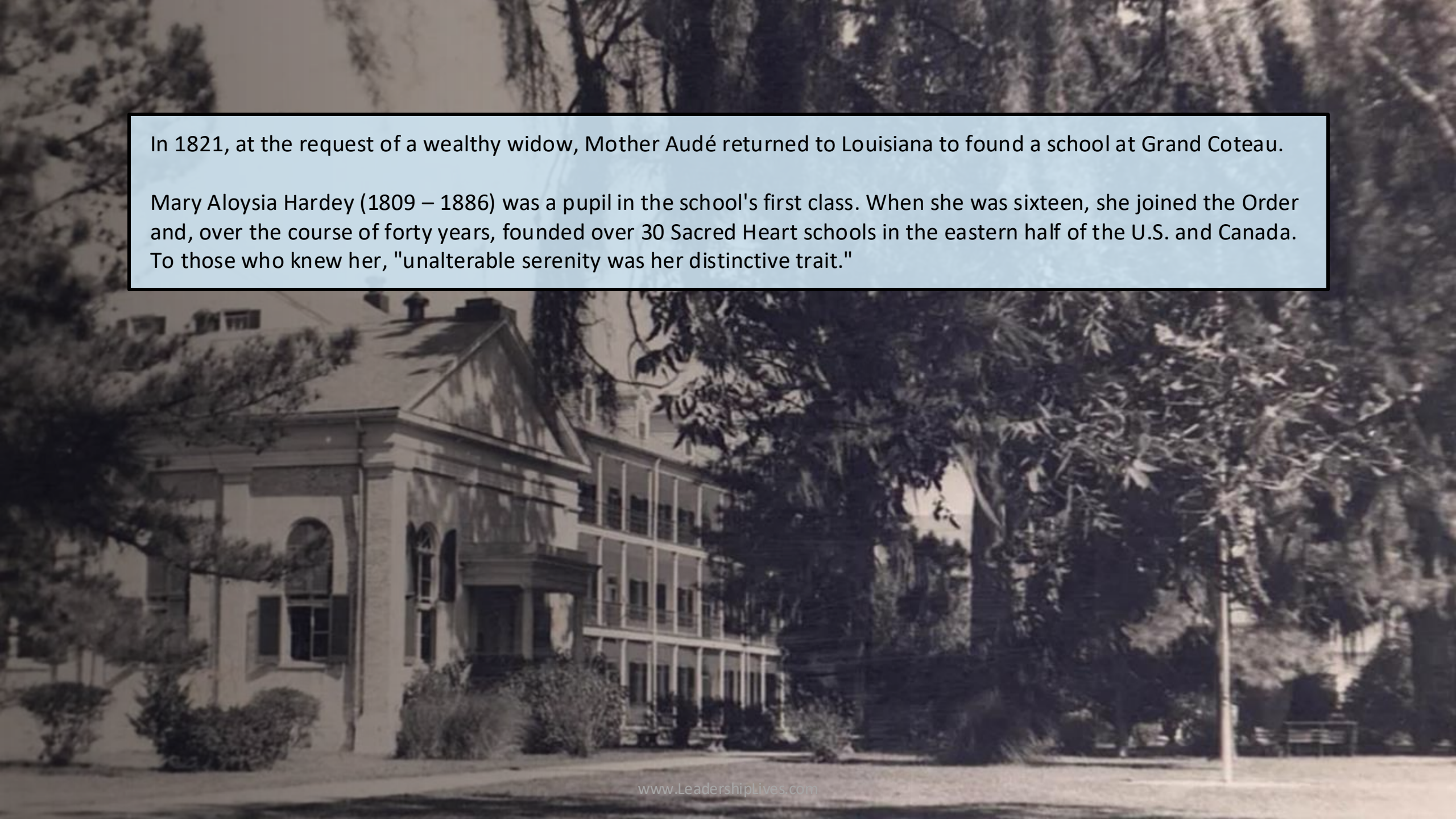


They continued to St. Charles, Missouri, where the Mississippi meets the Missouri River.

Wading through thick mud, they built a log cabin and established the first free school west of the Mississippi. Thus, began what one writer described as their "long course of patient endurance, of delay, of acceptance of hardship, of suffering ... which attended the first years spent in America."

In 1821, at the request of a wealthy widow, Mother Audé returned to Louisiana to found a school at Grand Coteau.

Mary Aloysia Hardey (1809 – 1886) was a pupil in the school's first class. When she was sixteen, she joined the Order and, over the course of forty years, founded over 30 Sacred Heart schools in the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada. To those who knew her, "unalterable serenity was her distinctive trait."





In 1841, the Order planted their first school in New York City with the purchase of an existing school at the corner of Houston and Mulberry Streets. They rapidly outgrew the space and sold the building to the Sisters of Mercy.

They temporarily moved to a beautiful property overlooking the East River in Astoria - then in the country - while Mother Hardey searched for a more suitable location.

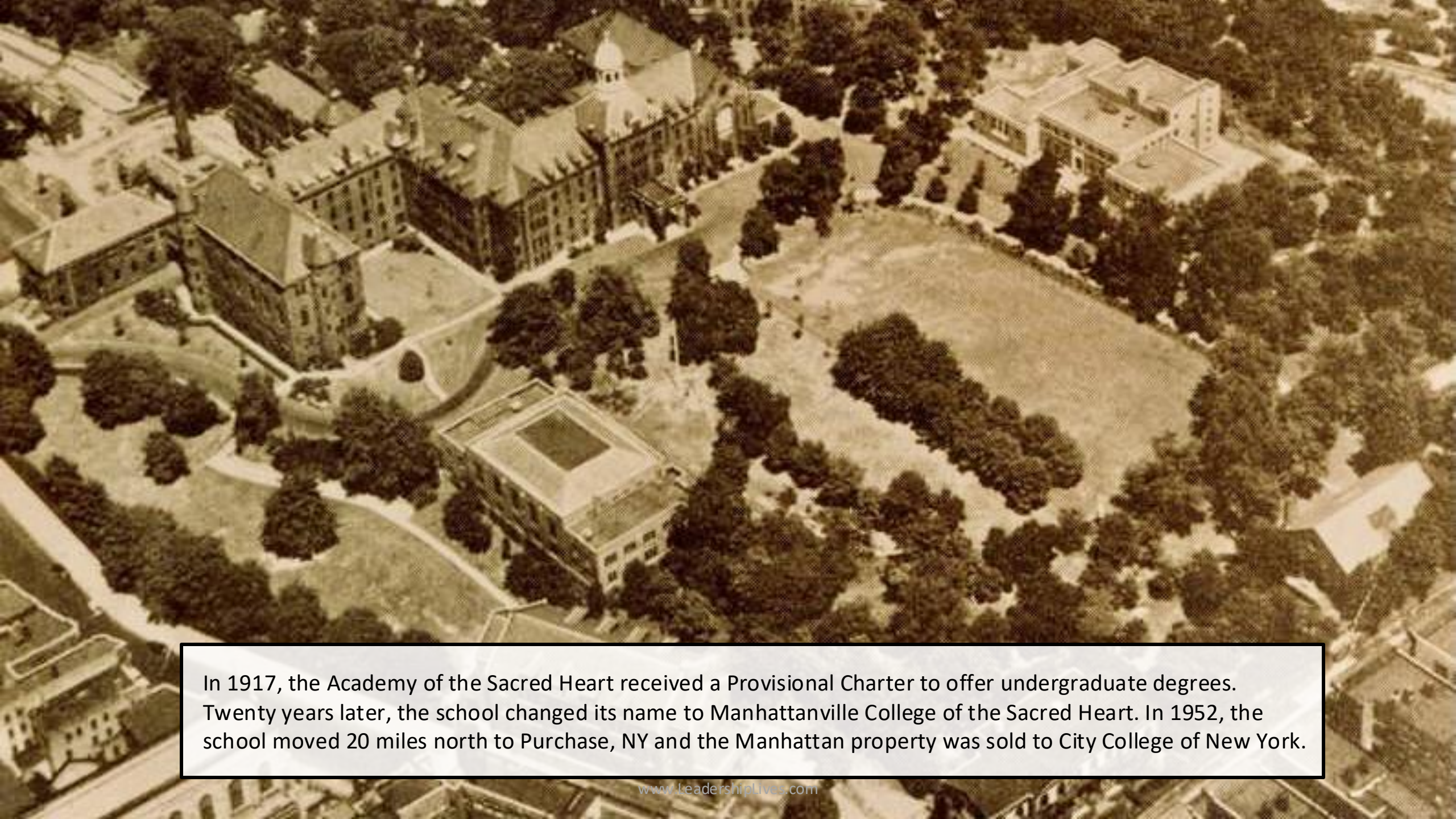
New York City, 1841



In late 1846, a spectacular property overlooking the Hudson River was put up for sale by the Lorillard family. The 90-acre (12 city blocks) property was in a northern neighborhood of New York City called Manhattanville.

Mrs. Lorillard was asking \$70,000 for the property. Mother Hardey could only offer \$50,000. Mrs. Lorillard firmly turned down the offer. For three days the school prayed. On the third evening, the Lorillard family accepted Mother Hardey's offer and tossed in an additional 12 acres of adjoining land.

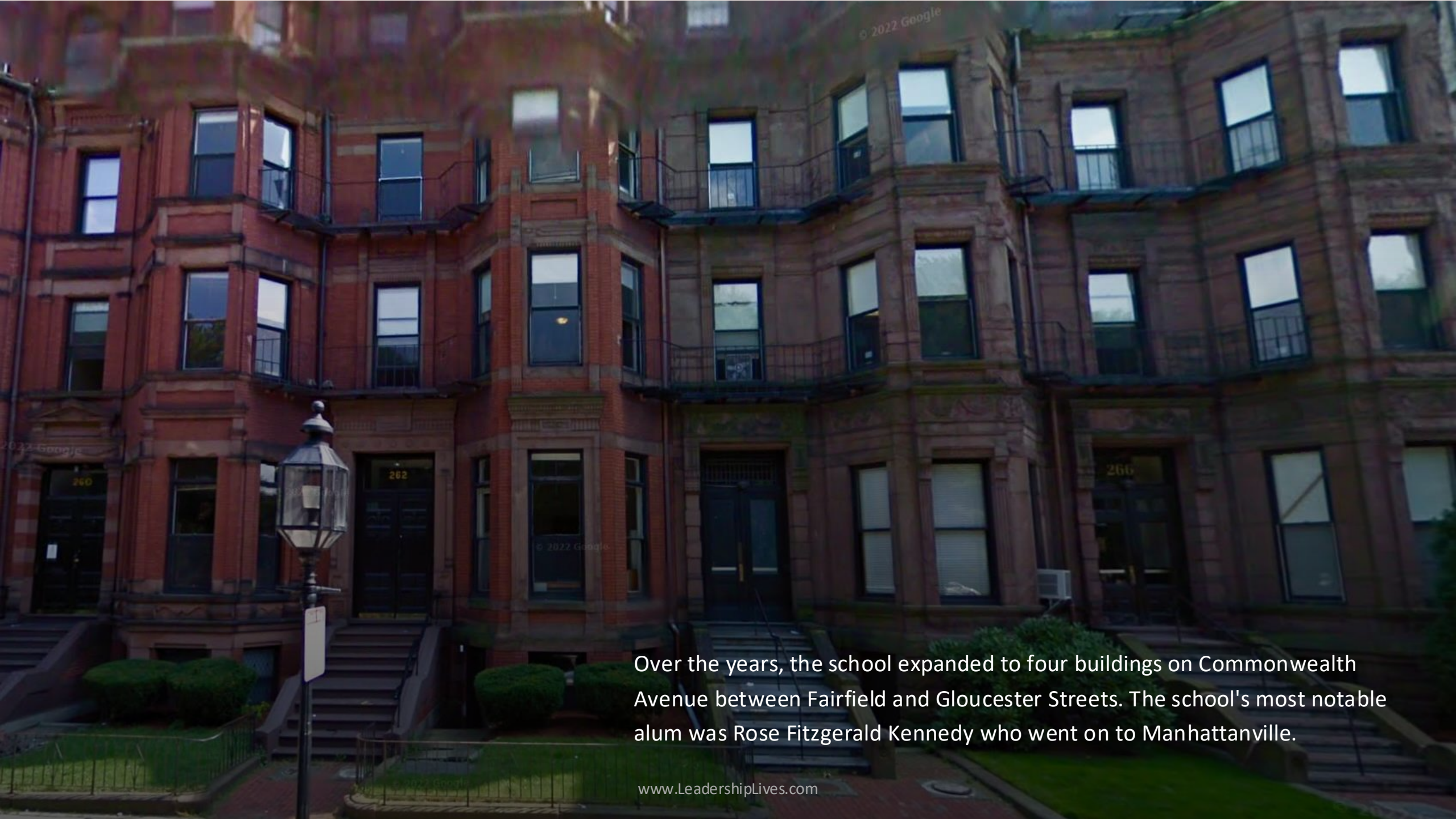
By 1858, Manhattanville had over 200 boarding students.



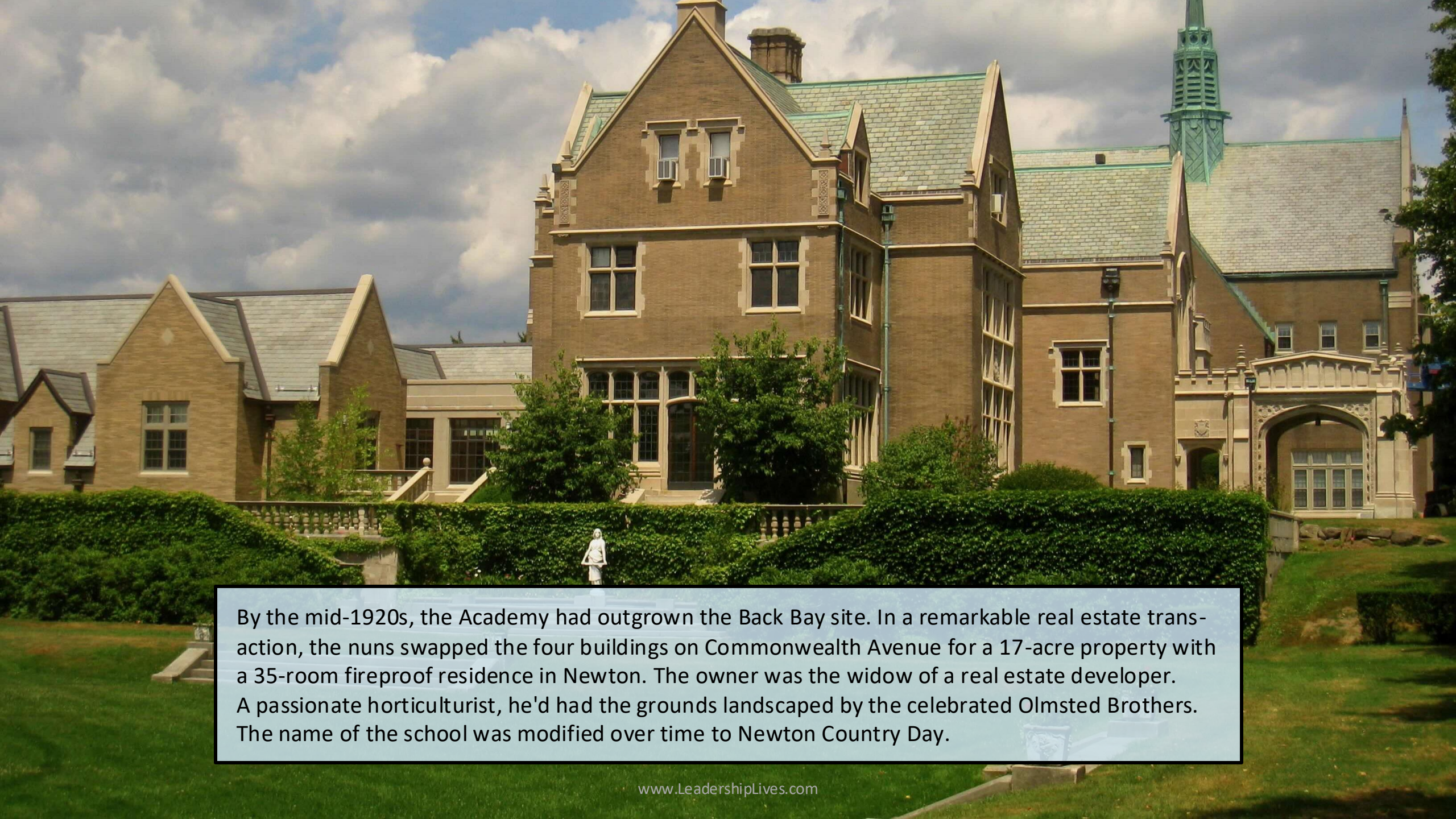
In 1917, the Academy of the Sacred Heart received a Provisional Charter to offer undergraduate degrees. Twenty years later, the school changed its name to Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart. In 1952, the school moved 20 miles north to Purchase, NY and the Manhattan property was sold to City College of New York.

In 1880, the Order founded the Academy of the Sacred Heart on Massachusetts Avenue in Boston's Back Bay – it was the 20th Sacred Heart school in America.





Over the years, the school expanded to four buildings on Commonwealth Avenue between Fairfield and Gloucester Streets. The school's most notable alum was Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy who went on to Manhattanville.



By the mid-1920s, the Academy had outgrown the Back Bay site. In a remarkable real estate transaction, the nuns swapped the four buildings on Commonwealth Avenue for a 17-acre property with a 35-room fireproof residence in Newton. The owner was the widow of a real estate developer. A passionate horticulturist, he'd had the grounds landscaped by the celebrated Olmsted Brothers. The name of the school was modified over time to Newton Country Day.

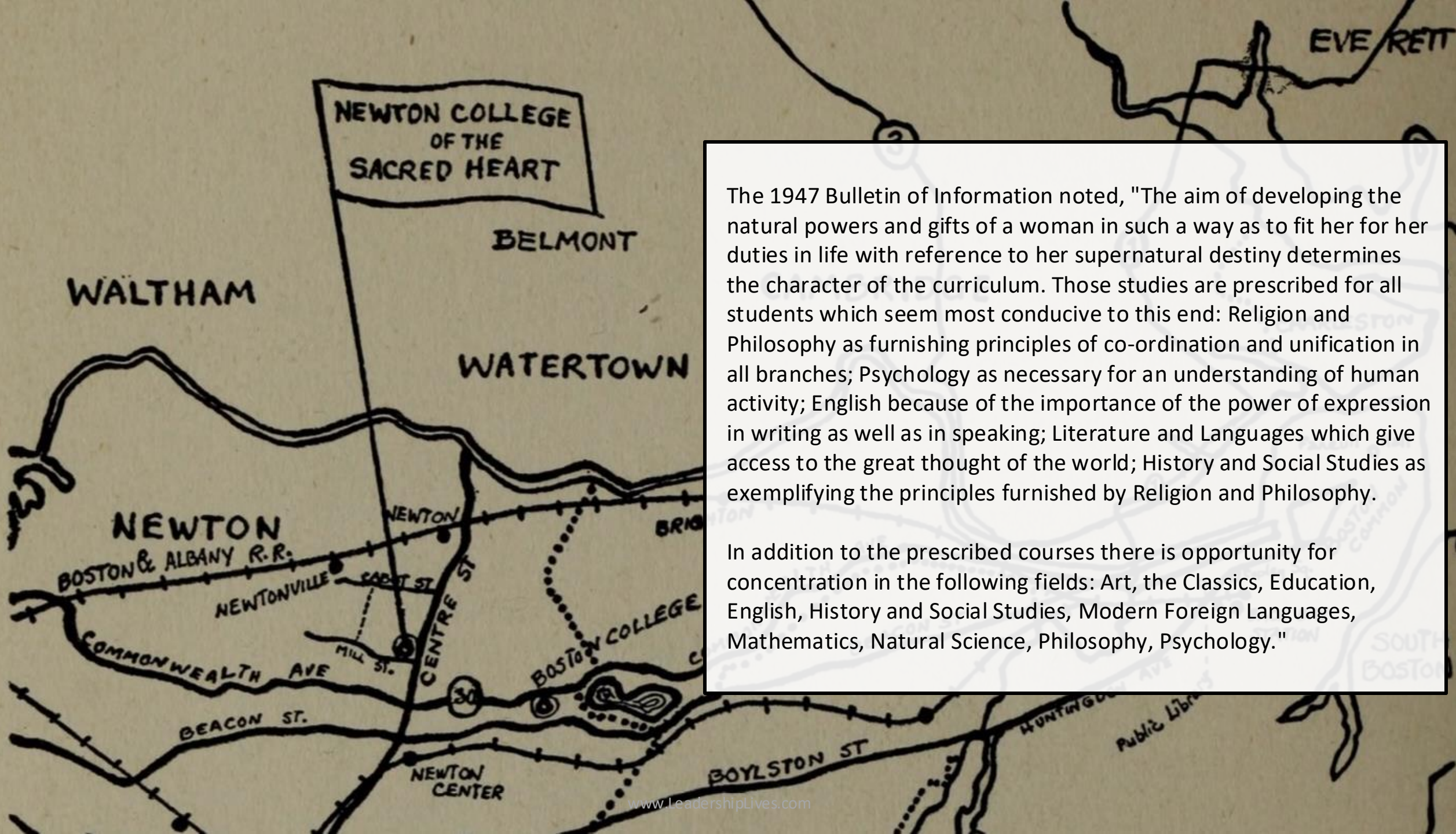
In early 1946, when the Harriman and Schrafft estates bordering Newton Country Day, came up for sale. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing suggested the Order purchase the properties and establish a college.

That June, the *Boston Globe* reported Newton College of the Sacred Heart would open at 885 Centre Street in September. Set on 40 acres, the existing buildings would be repurposed for classrooms, lecture halls, laboratories, a library and dormitories. A small chapel was created in the basement of the former Schrafft house.

Fifty students enrolled in the first class of freshman – 28 lived on campus.







The 1947 Bulletin of Information noted, "The aim of developing the natural powers and gifts of a woman in such a way as to fit her for her duties in life with reference to her supernatural destiny determines the character of the curriculum. Those studies are prescribed for all students which seem most conducive to this end: Religion and Philosophy as furnishing principles of co-ordination and unification in all branches; Psychology as necessary for an understanding of human activity; English because of the importance of the power of expression in writing as well as in speaking; Literature and Languages which give access to the great thought of the world; History and Social Studies as exemplifying the principles furnished by Religion and Philosophy.

In addition to the prescribed courses there is opportunity for concentration in the following fields: Art, the Classics, Education, English, History and Social Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Mathematics, Natural Science, Philosophy, Psychology."

NEWTON COLLEGE
of the Sacred Heart
Newton 59, Massachusetts

NEWTON COLLEGE

OF THE

SACRED HEART

ADMISSION

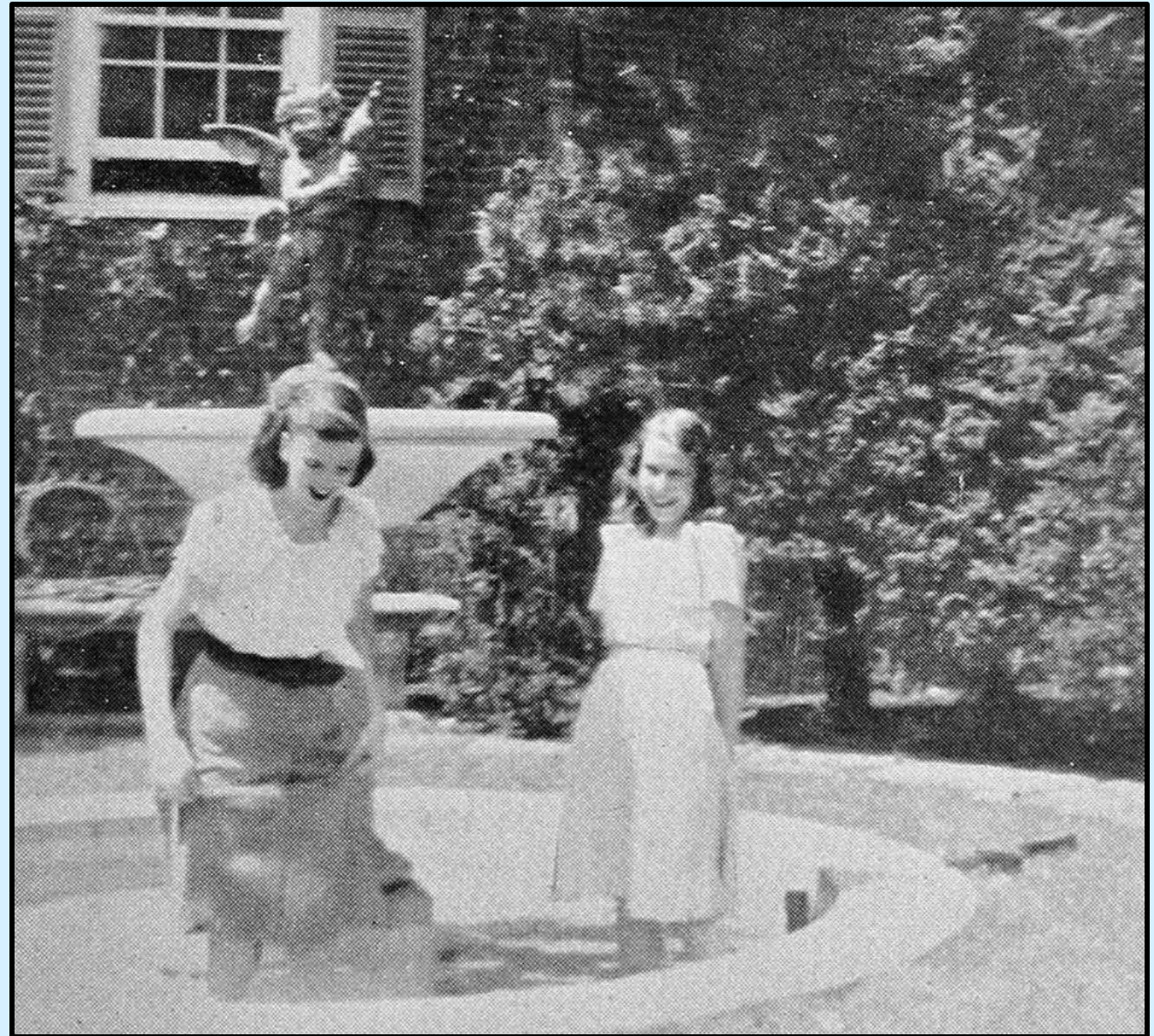
"Prospective candidates for admission are advised to communicate with the college a year and a half or two years in advance of the time they wish to enter college. They are invited to visit the college by appointment if this is convenient as a personal interview is desirable before a student is accepted."

From the 1950 Yearbook of the first graduating class...

"There is a wonderful institution in American legal history which forbids ex post facto laws. And let us say now, we took all possible advantage of it. Since no mention of fire-escapes was made in the catalogue, Mimi presumed that they were a logical method of communication...

...the first Tea Dance when Mother Keyes asked a shocked young gentleman to dance...

... when we all got a weekend campus for the harmless diversion of singing out the window and serenading Mother Harrigan."



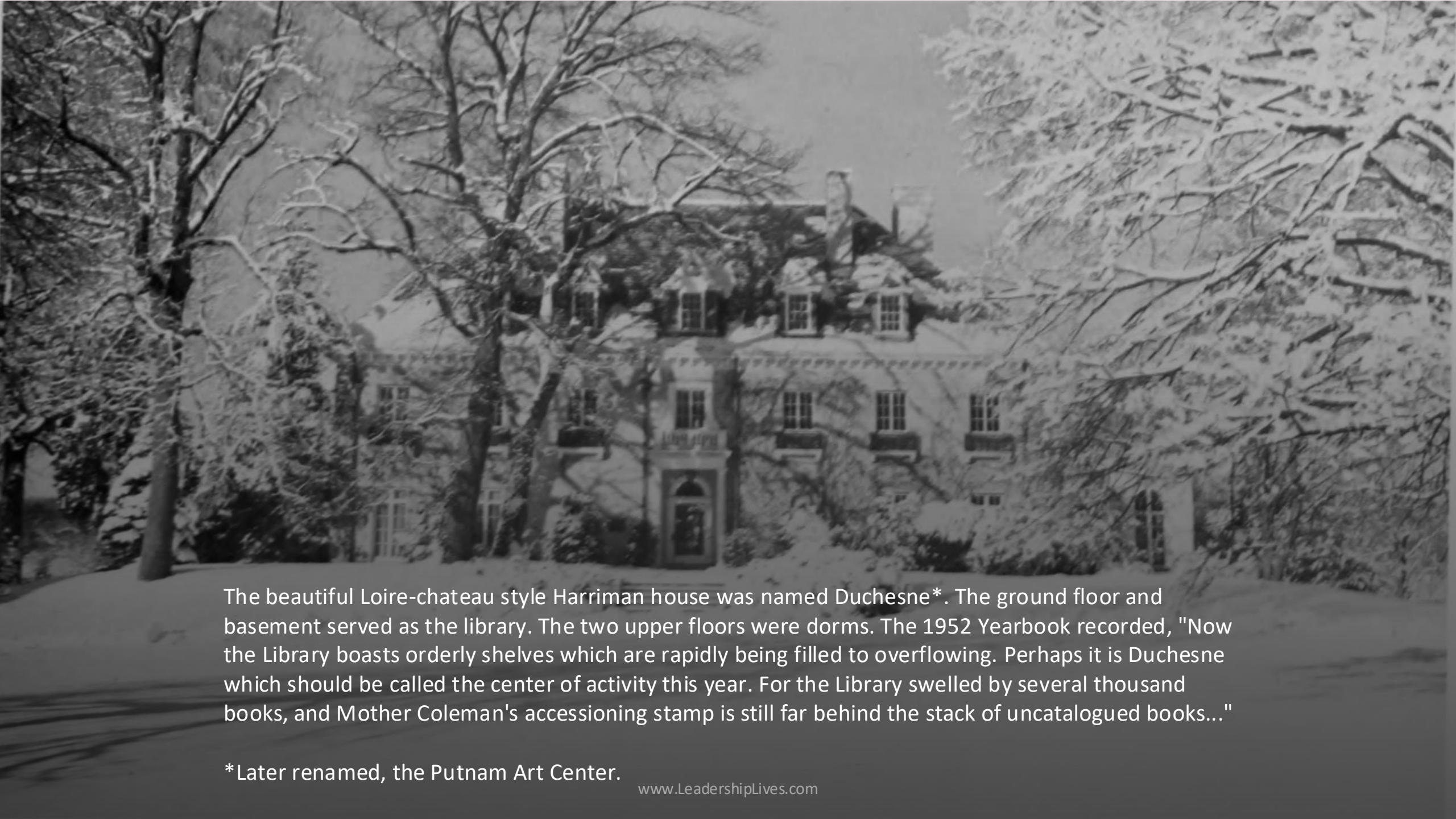
...Sophomore year "was the winter of the Great Snow, when we had to allow a half an hour to "walk" to the college...

Our masterpiece for that year was Parents' Weekend, when Jane Sweeney beat us all in spelling, and our fathers had a wonderful barbershop quartet.

We went home after the dance with the strangest feeling. Half of our college days were gone."

Class of 1951

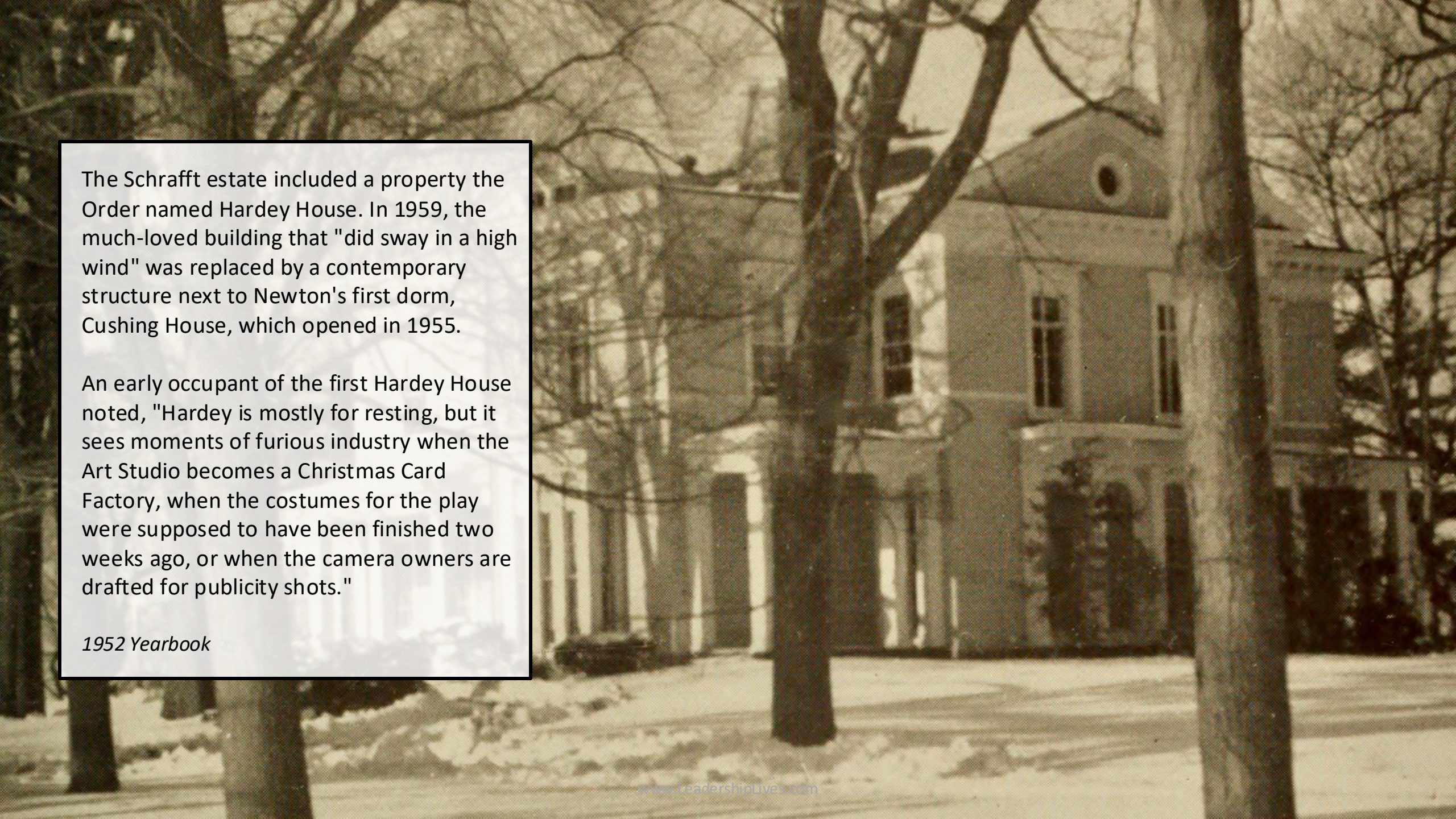




The beautiful Loire-chateau style Harriman house was named Duchesne*. The ground floor and basement served as the library. The two upper floors were dorms. The 1952 Yearbook recorded, "Now the Library boasts orderly shelves which are rapidly being filled to overflowing. Perhaps it is Duchesne which should be called the center of activity this year. For the Library swelled by several thousand books, and Mother Coleman's accessioning stamp is still far behind the stack of uncatalogued books..."

*Later renamed, the Putnam Art Center.

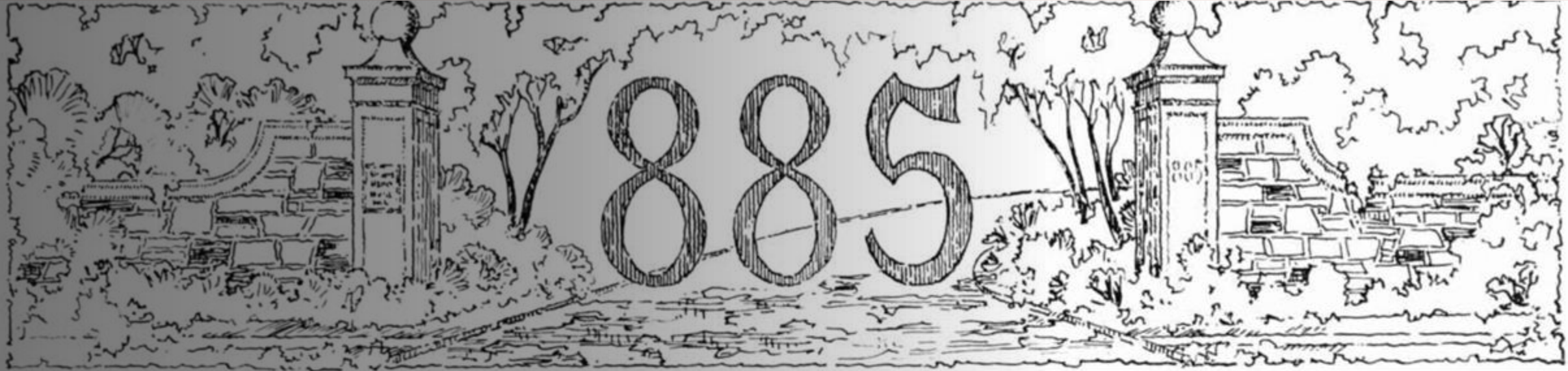




The Schrafft estate included a property the Order named Hardey House. In 1959, the much-loved building that "did sway in a high wind" was replaced by a contemporary structure next to Newton's first dorm, Cushing House, which opened in 1955.

An early occupant of the first Hardey House noted, "Hardey is mostly for resting, but it sees moments of furious industry when the Art Studio becomes a Christmas Card Factory, when the costumes for the play were supposed to have been finished two weeks ago, or when the camera owners are drafted for publicity shots."

1952 Yearbook



Vol. I

NEWTON COLLEGE OF THE SACRED HEART, DECEMBER, 1952

Catholic Art Group Chooses Dean of Newton As New Regional Head

Mother Louise Keyes, Dean of Newton, has been appointed Chairman of the New England Region of the Catholic Art Association, it has just been announced, and Newton has been selected to be host to the national meeting of the Association in 1953.

On November 22nd of this year a regional meeting was held at Newton and was attended by a large and appreciative group of art lovers.

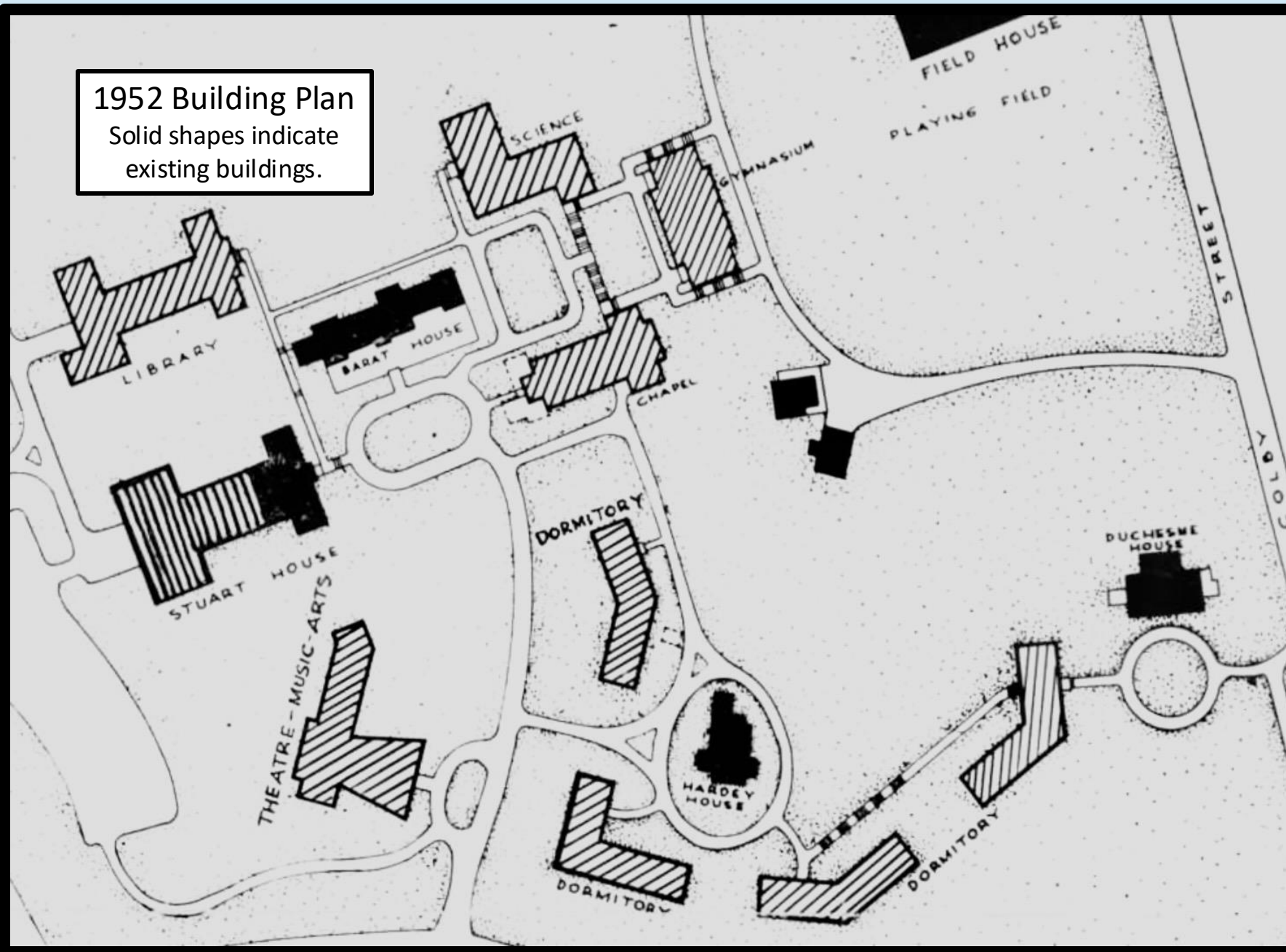
After the Missa Cantata sung at ten

Building Fund Drive Announced

In December 1952, the first issue of "885" announced a major building drive.

"The immediate goal will be the raising of \$2,500,000, the estimated minimum cost of finishing Stuart and erecting the projected Chapel, Library and Science Hall."


1952 Building Plan
Solid shapes indicate
existing buildings.



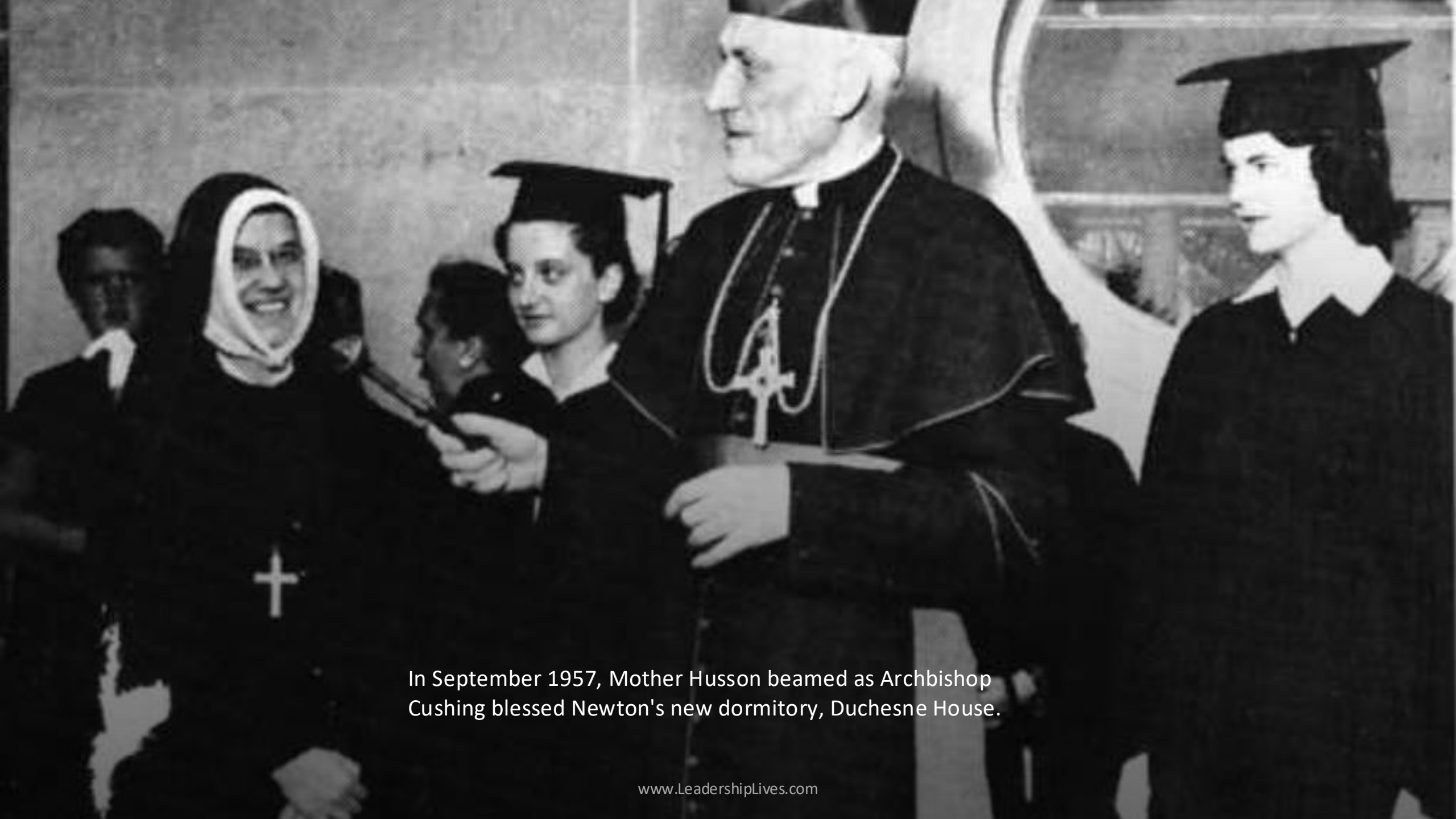


"885" reported, "The first project would be the completion of Stuart, which will be three times its present size."

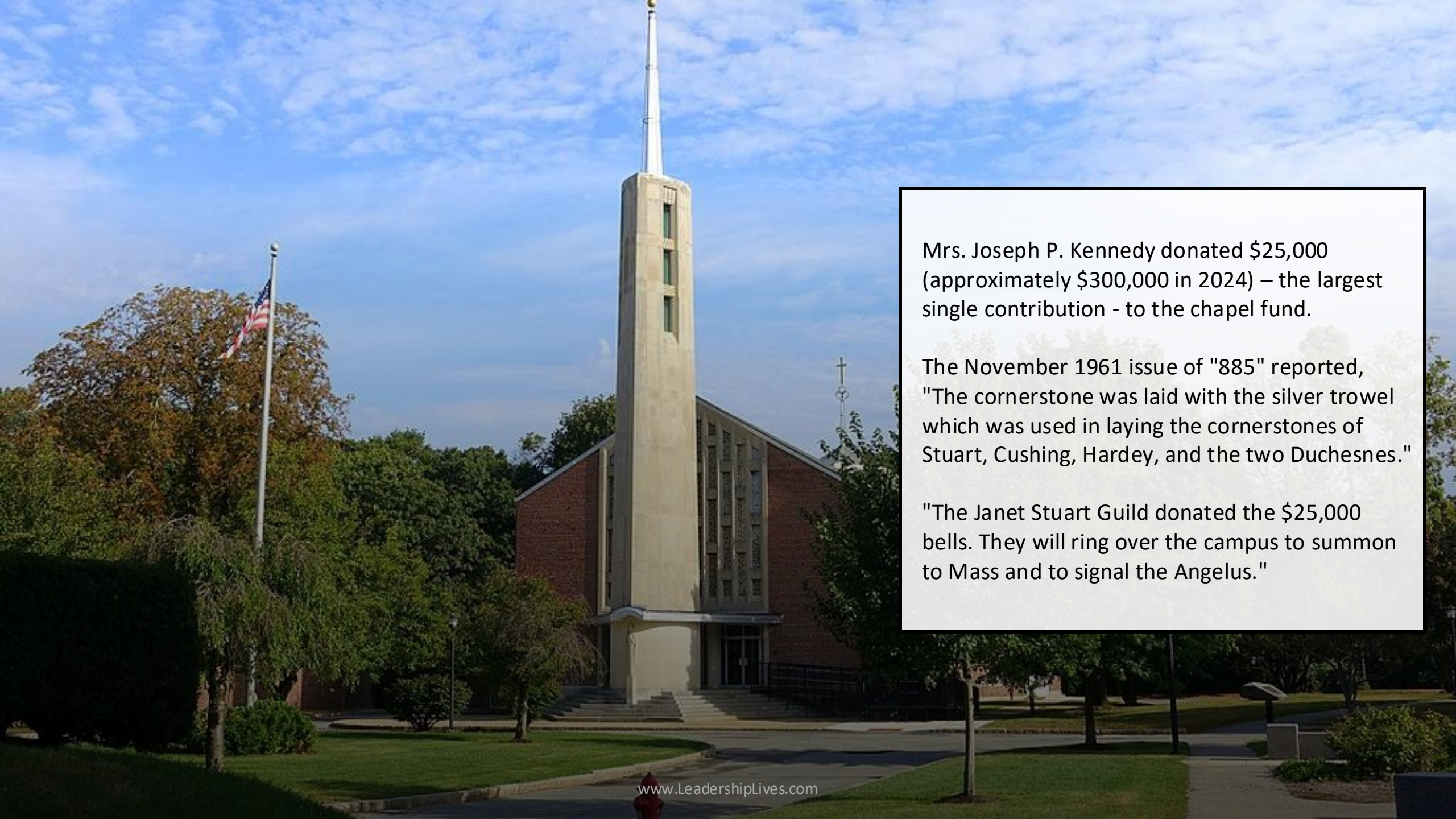
The building was named for Mother Janet E. Stuart (1857 – 1914). Mother Stuart was the 5th Superior General of the Society of the Sacred Heart and author of *The Education of Catholic Girls*. The daughter of an Anglican minister and granddaughter of an Earl, she was cut off by her family when she converted to Catholicism at 21.



In the fall of 1954, "Newton passed another turning point in its history when the school was admitted as a member college of the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools... membership in this organization means for a college full accreditation. It opens the way, said Mother Quinlan, Dean of Studies, for Newton's further academic expansion."



In September 1957, Mother Husson beamed as Archbishop Cushing blessed Newton's new dormitory, Duchesne House.



Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy donated \$25,000 (approximately \$300,000 in 2024) – the largest single contribution - to the chapel fund.

The November 1961 issue of "885" reported, "The cornerstone was laid with the silver trowel which was used in laying the cornerstones of Stuart, Cushing, Hardey, and the two Duchesnes."

"The Janet Stuart Guild donated the \$25,000 bells. They will ring over the campus to summon to Mass and to signal the Angelus."

Over the years, celebrated speakers visited Newton – debaters, Arthur Schlesinger and William F. Buckley, renowned psychologist Abraham Maslow, historian Charles Bracelen Flood, controversial folksinger, Pete Seeger, even more controversial, Rev. Daniel Berrigan and, most notably, Senator John F. Kennedy in October 1958, gearing up for his 1960 run for president.

Sen. Kennedy To Discuss Current Events

Massachusetts's Senator John F. Kennedy will speak to the student body on an aspect of current events at an assembly on Thursday, October 23rd.

Senator Kennedy, a graduate of Harvard College, is a member of the Advisory Board of Newton College.

By 1959, enrollment had exploded to over 500 students. Mother Gorman had joined the Psychology Department and Mother Putnam had joined the art faculty. After three years away, Mother White returned to the English Department with a PhD from Catholic University.

Study of Western Culture (SWC) had been added to the curriculum and got off to a strong start with lectures from authorities on French literature, modern architecture, the spread of the Church through missions, physics, stained glass, and the supernatural life of the soul.

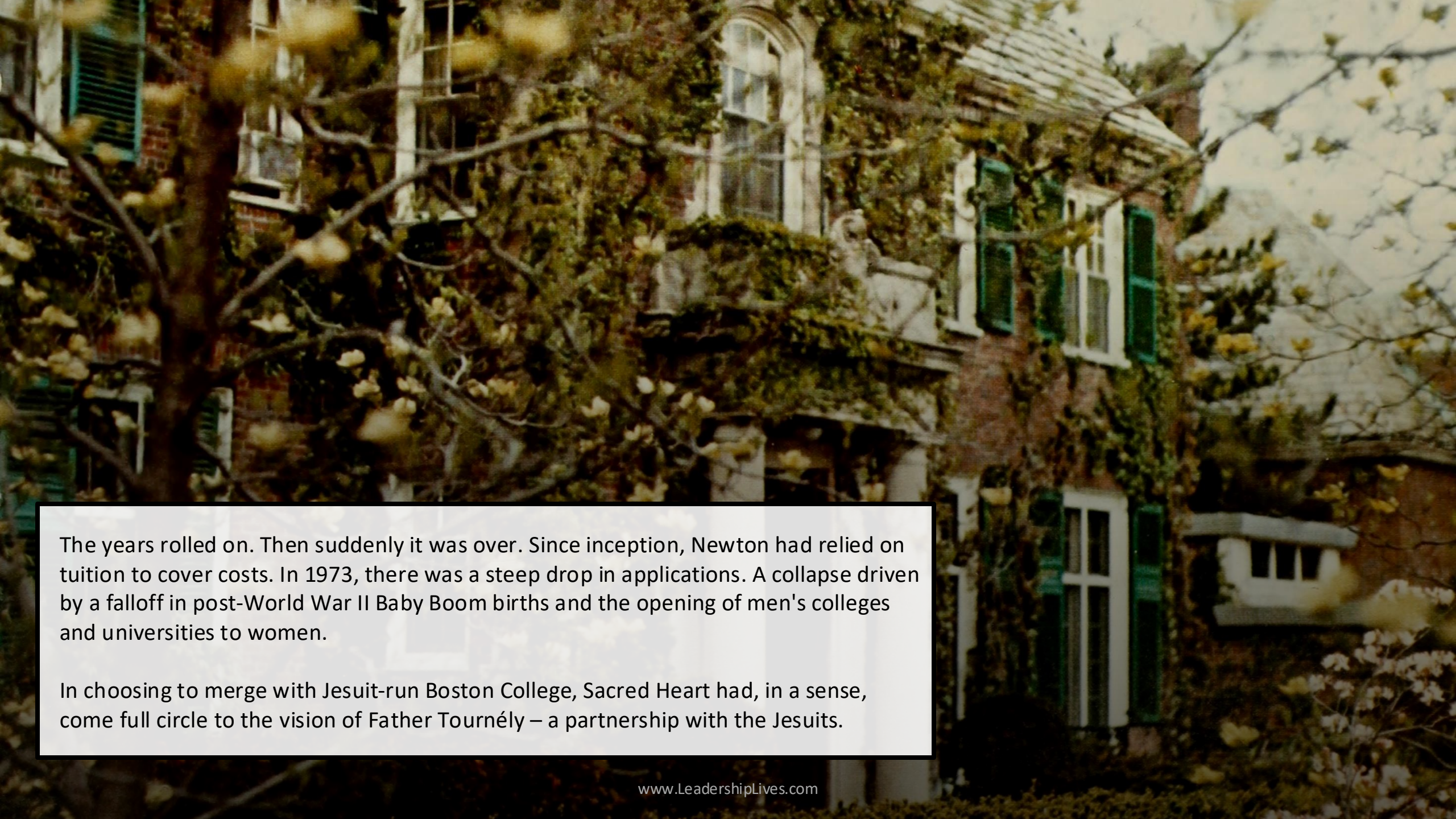
An October 1963, an "885" editorial said, "Contrary to the opinion of many freshmen and sophomores currently enrolled in SWC, it is one of the more valuable, if not the most valuable course offered to the students of Newton. To some it is a time-consuming course consisting of laborious reading and frantic note-taking, to others it is fascinating and challenging."



Mothers Putnam and White discuss the safe arrival of the freshmen with the Orientation Committee, Ellie Maher, Alo Coleman, Chairman, and Pat O'Connor.




A new dorm opened in 1965 and was named in honor of Mother Keyes who had shaped Newton's curriculum. The Library was completed in 1967.



The years rolled on. Then suddenly it was over. Since inception, Newton had relied on tuition to cover costs. In 1973, there was a steep drop in applications. A collapse driven by a falloff in post-World War II Baby Boom births and the opening of men's colleges and universities to women.

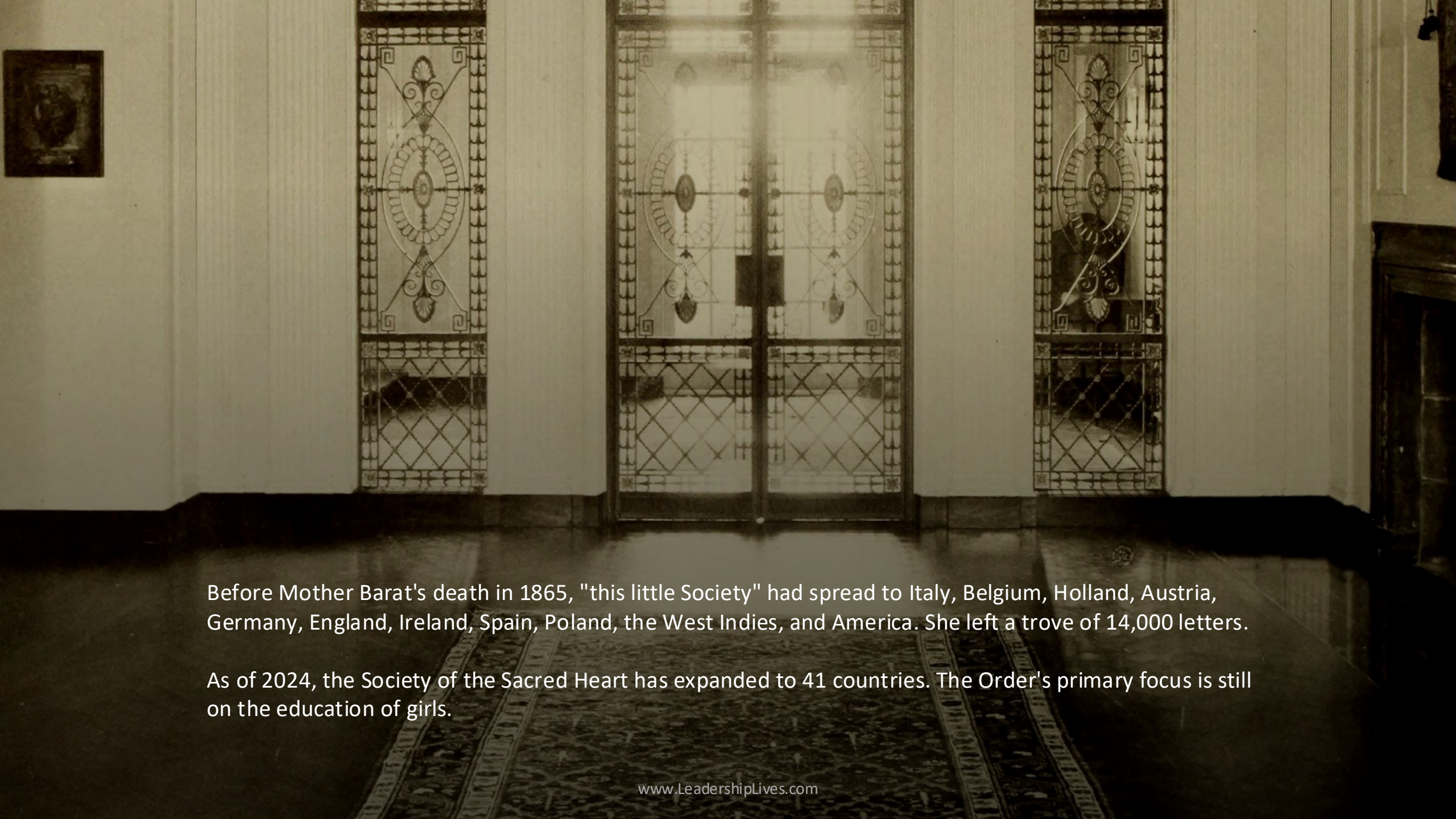
In choosing to merge with Jesuit-run Boston College, Sacred Heart had, in a sense, come full circle to the vision of Father Tournély – a partnership with the Jesuits.

A scenic view of a campus. In the foreground, there are large trees with green and yellowing leaves. In the background, there are brick buildings, including a large one with a chimney and a smaller one with a clock tower. The sky is blue with some clouds.

In 1914, Mother Stuart spent the final months of her life writing an account of the Order, *The Society of the Sacred Heart*. She titled the last chapter, "The Type." She wrote "The result of a strong system of training is to develop a marked type without weakening individuality."

The Order instills in graduates, timeless qualities they perceive and enjoy in each other.

Looking toward Barat and Stuart from Keyes North.



Before Mother Barat's death in 1865, "this little Society" had spread to Italy, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Germany, England, Ireland, Spain, Poland, the West Indies, and America. She left a trove of 14,000 letters.

As of 2024, the Society of the Sacred Heart has expanded to 41 countries. The Order's primary focus is still on the education of girls.



NEWTON
COLLEGE
OF THE
SACRED
HEART

1946 - 1975

ADDENDUM

ABOUT MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT...

“SHE LOVED PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR FAULTS TO THE CORE OF THEIR BEST SELVES.”

WISDOM FROM
MOTHER MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT



"YOUR EXAMPLE, EVEN MORE THAN YOUR WORDS,
WILL BE AN ELOQUENT LESSON TO THE WORLD."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

SACRED HEART CONVENT
ST. CHARLES, MO, 1818



"WE DON'T LIVE WITH ANGELS; WE HAVE TO PUT UP
WITH HUMAN NATURE AND FORGIVE IT."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

EDEN HALL
PHILADELPHIA, PA, 1849



"LET US LEAVE ACTS, NOT WORDS.
NOBODY WILL HAVE TIME TO READ US."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

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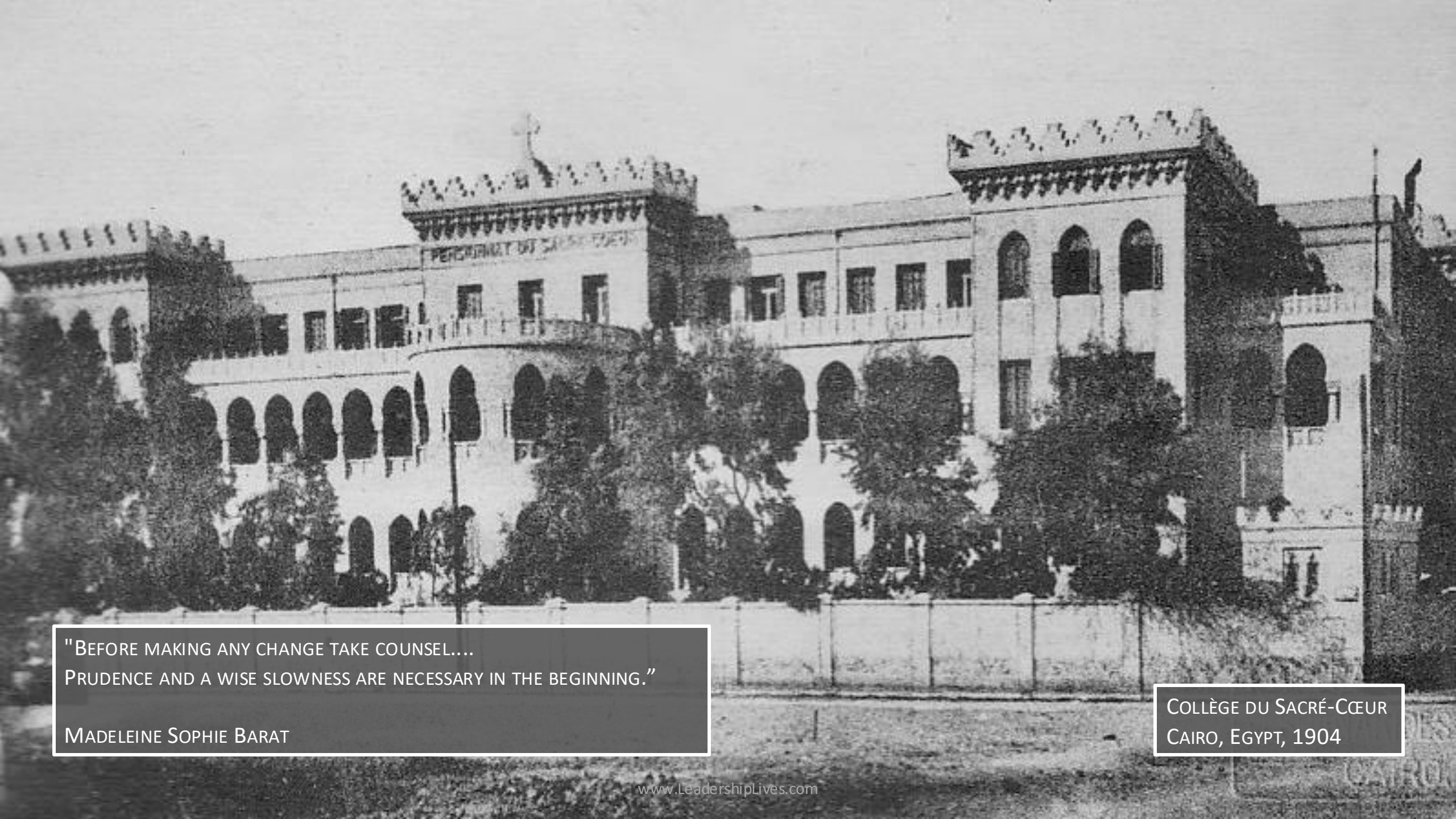
ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART
ROCHESTER, NY, 1855



"BE HUMBLE, BE SIMPLE, BRING JOY TO OTHERS."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART
ROSE BAY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 1882



"BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGE TAKE COUNSEL....
PRUDENCE AND A WISE SLOWNESS ARE NECESSARY IN THE BEGINNING."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

COLLÈGE DU SACRÉ-CŒUR
CAIRO, EGYPT, 1904



"MORE IS GAINED BY INDULGENCE THAN BY SEVERITY."

MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART,
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, 1923.

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...and a car... and an A in Philosophy...and
a date for Junior Weekend...

"885" November 1959

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SACRED HEART ACADEMY AT HOUSTON AND MULBERRY STREETS. SCREENSHOT FROM MARY ALOYSIA HARDEY.

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AERIAL SHOT OF MANHATTANVILLE TAKEN PRIOR TO 1952. NOT CREDITED, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

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BARAT HOUSE, 1975 NCSH YEARBOOK.

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THE END