

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

Kerry Crawford



Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska (1825-1899)

Source: Felician Sisters

Sophia Truszkowska was born in 1825 in central Poland. She was initially attracted to the life of a cloistered sister. As a young woman, Sophia experienced in private prayer a call to a different pathway. That new direction was not one

of solitude, but of service. Joining the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Sophia began helping the poor in the slums of Warsaw. With her father's financial support and her cousin Clothilde's assistance, Sophia opened a school and shelter for children and homeless women.

Sophia joined the Secular Franciscan Order, at the recommendation of her spiritual director, taking the religious name of Angela. On November 21, 1855, the

thirty-year old knelt before an icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa and consecrated herself totally to God. That day signaled the founding of one of the first active-contemplative religious communities in Poland — the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice, known more commonly as the Felician Sisters.

As the Franciscan community grew, so did the sisters' apostolates and outreach. Father Joseph Dabrowski, a young Polish missionary, had arrived in Wisconsin in 1870. He later wrote to the Felician Sisters for help. "Without a Catholic school here for the Polish child of immigrants, all will be lost for God and country," he pleaded.¹ Mother Mary Angela, who always counseled the sisters to serve where they were needed, personally blessed the five pioneer sisters who set sail for North America. Within two weeks of arriving in Polonia on November 20, 1874, the sisters opened the Sacred Heart School for Polish-American children.

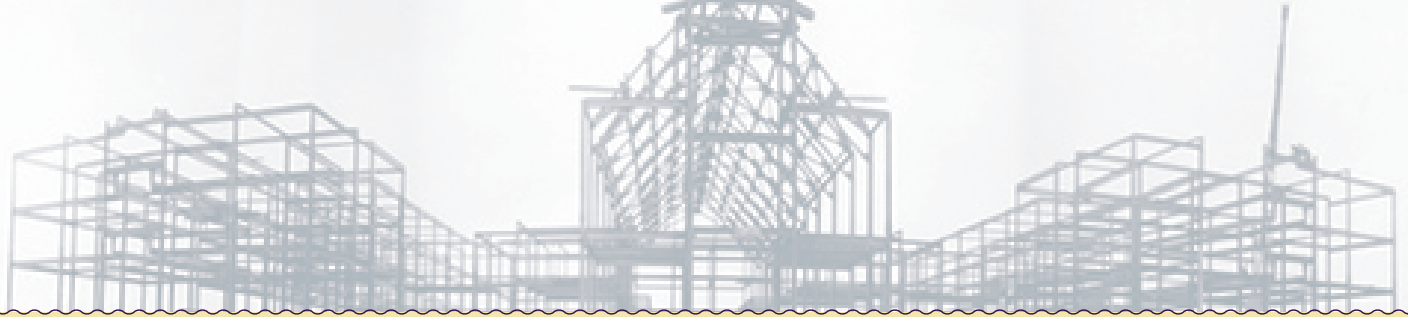
Many more schools followed as the Felician Sisters, who had moved their headquarters to Detroit, expanded their ministry throughout the country. With the opening in 1888 of St. Adalbert School in the South Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh, the cradle of Felician ministry was established in the tri-state area. Pope Benedict XV approved in 1921 a new province called Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, drawing more than 100 sisters from Detroit, to meet the growing needs of the region. By that time, the sisters were already ministering in more than a dozen schools in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, typically located close to the mills and factories in which many Polish immigrants found work.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy opened its doors on September 1, 1932, in the Felician provincial house. Enrolled were 18 girls in ninth and tenth grade, all of whom aspired to become Felician Sisters. In 1935, the Academy graduated its first class of six young women. More than seventy years later, three of these graduates — Sisters Mary Irene Grabowicz, Mary Liliose Fien, and Mary Miriam Patalski, shared memories of their experiences.



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy, Chapel, and Convent

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis



In recalling those early years, the sisters agreed that life was “hard but happy.” The then-young teenagers were not only diligent students but part of the work force needed to support the community in the straits of the Great Depression. Before attending morning classes, according to Sister Mary Miriam, the aspirant-students of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Academy, watered the lawn and trees that had been planted just a few years earlier. Cows and chickens had to be fed. Food was not plentiful. Sometimes the staples were just that — no more, no less. “What did you eat with the bread?” Sister Mary Liliose laughingly recalled a question the aspirant-students would ask each other. The answer: “Nothing.” “What did you put on the bread?” The answer: “Nothing.”² Students throughout the Pittsburgh area faced similar challenges on the day Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy began operation. “Relief Groups Will Ask City to Supply Shoes” and “Many Need Clothes” read the back-to-school headlines that September 1932 morning in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*. The articles reported that clothing for 30,000 area families and shoes for 16,000 children were needed to insure the presence of children in classrooms.³

In spite of these hardships and maybe because of them, there was a shared vision and camaraderie among the students of the inaugural graduating class of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy. “We stuck together,” Sister Mary Irene recalled.

Indeed, they did. This trio — sisters in their nineties at the time of the interview with the author — witnessed firsthand the growth of the school as measured by its changing admissions: first, aspirants only; then, girls who were day students or boarders; and, finally, boys.

ACADEMY FOR FUTURE FELICIAN SISTERS (1930s)

The first provincial house for the Felician Sisters, a temporary one, was in the former Saint Barnabas Home located

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School traces its international heritage to Poland and its American roots to a small hamlet in Polonia, Wisconsin.

in East McKeesport (1921-1932). In 1930, ground was broken in Coraopolis Heights (Moon Township) for a permanent residence that would also house the academy for girls. Building in the throes of the Great Depression, the weight of indebtedness burdened the sisters for many years to come.

On May 26, 1932, Bishop Hugh Boyle blessed the new structure, which, according to the *Pittsburgh Catholic*, cost \$700,000.⁴ Situated on a 75-acre campus, the three-storied red-brick building in the shape of a capital E actually consisted of three connected buildings. The chapel was in the center flanked by the provincial house or convent for the sisters to the right, and the school to the left where it remains to this day.⁵ The first and second floors accommodated classrooms with the third floor reserved for living facilities for the aspirants and, later, also resident students. A promise was made to those attending the dedication that the high school would be ready by September.

On opening day, the ninth and tenth grade classes of 18 aspirants were welcomed by Sister Mary Cajetan Pietrzak, the principal of the academy, and a member of the provincial council (1926 - 1944). She served in leadership at the school for one year. Sister Mary Cajetan was one of eight Felician Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province who had received Bachelor of Arts degrees between 1923 and 1934 from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. All would serve in administrative or faculty positions during the early years. The requirements for educators were rapidly changing and the Felician Sisters were determined to keep pace. Father Paul E. Campbell, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Pittsburgh from 1926 to 1939, urged more teacher training to meet the requirements for state-certified teachers. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had set the bar for elementary and secondary teachers



Sister Eugenia Szczutkowska, principal from 1933 to 1946, with students

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis

to complete, respectively, a two-year or bachelor's degree by 1927.⁶

Sister Mary Eugenia Szczutkowska succeeded Sister Mary Cajetan in September 1933. She served as principal for 13 years, from 1933 to 1946. The Pennsylvania Department of Instruction accredited OLSH Academy on April 8, 1935. In his letter to Sister Mary Eugenia, Dr. James G. Pentz, chief of state credentials, wrote, "I am safe in saying that this is one of the best schools to be found in the State."⁷ The small senior class graduated that same spring.

Highlights of student activities during the first decade of OLSH Academy speak to a simpler time. Established were *The Clarion*, the student newspaper (1936), still in publication today, the Sodality of Mary (1937), and interscholastic volleyball and basketball tournaments with local schools (1938). Field trip destinations then were remarkably similar to those of today (e.g., Carnegie Museum, Phipps Conservatory, the Pittsburgh Symphony) — although today's students in Western Pennsylvania no longer have the opportunity to tour the Heinz Plant or witness an opera performed at the Syria Mosque as OLSH students did in the late

1930s.⁸ What was not so routine was the school's celebration of American Education Week in November 1937. The National Education Association and the American Legion co-sponsored the first American Education Week in 1921 to promote public schools. They would be joined in 1922 by the U.S. Department of Education and later by the National PTA, in 1938.⁹ Sister Mary Eugenia used the opportunity to promote Catholic secondary education and invited the public to hear speakers from Duquesne University.

ACADEMY FOR GIRLS (1940s, 1950s, AND 1960s)

At the close of Sister Mary Eugenia's 13-year tenure as principal, Sister Mary Aloysius Michalak (1946-1953), Sister Mary Cecilia Czaplinski (1953-1965) and Sister Mary Pulcheria Saukaitis (1965-1971) headed Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy.

The arrival of 25 Polish refugee girls to live and attend school at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy in 1947 made local news. In the aftermath of war, the young

women — ages 14 to 17 — had been forced from Poland to Siberia from where they escaped through Southern Russia and India before reaching a refugee camp in Mexico. The Polish National Alliance sponsored their coming to Coraopolis where the Felician Sisters, many of whom spoke Polish, helped the young women to learn English.¹⁰

The reputation for OLSH Academy's excellence in science was laid during these years. Beginning in 1949, OLSH students proved to be keen competitors at the Buhl Planetarium Science Fairs and later the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science.

The Academy broadened its student base in the 1940s and 1950s. In addition to aspirants, day students — typically, young women from the local town of Coraopolis — and boarding students were now accepted. A junior high was added in 1948-1949 with the hope it would serve as a “feeder” to the high school. Its final class of eighth graders graduated in June 1957. By that time, St. Joseph Grade School in Coraopolis, which had opened with first through fourth grades in 1953 under the care of the Felician Sisters, had expanded to include fifth through eighth grades eliminating the need for the junior high.

With the inclusion of day and resident students, high school enrollment grew from 30 to over 100 by the 1959-1960 school year, peaking at 148 young women enrolled during 1964-1965.

Throughout these years, Felician Sisters comprised the faculty with the only exception being a lay physical education teacher.

The mid-Sixties signaled rough waters ahead for the Academy. A slight enrollment decline in the year following the 1964-1965 peak of nearly 150 students picked up momentum. When school began in September

1969, only 83 students took their seats. The Sixties, bracketing Vatican II (1963-1965), saw the highest number ever of Catholic schools, students, and sisters in America in the early to middle years of the decade. Felician membership in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province similarly reached its apex in the 1960s, with about 320 sisters staffing over 30 elementary and secondary schools in the tri-state area. The descent across the Catholic landscape was about to begin.¹¹

Faced with empty hallways and fewer girls trying on religious life for size, Sister Mary Pulcheria Saukaitis, principal, had come to a crossroads. The challenging times required an openness to change. Change, and dramatic change at that, Sister Mary Pulcheria hoped, might ensure the future of the Academy from which she, herself, had graduated. On May 1, 1970, with the blessing of the Felician Provincial Council, Sister Mary Pulcheria wrote to the Auxiliary Bishop John B. McDowell, Superintendent of Schools, that “after much investigation, deliberation, and debate, several parents interested in Catholic education have convinced us of the need to accept their boys in the fall.” She requested his blessing and a prayer for success.¹² In less than two weeks, McDowell wrote back, pronouncing the idea as “good,” and, asking Sister Mary Pulcheria to let him know “how things go.”¹³ In an interview 40 years later, Sister Mary Pulcheria recalled, “The administration and faculty of the school took a risk with this proposal — but, we put it in the hands of God.”¹⁴ And, things would go well.



Aspirants studying Polish culture and traditions

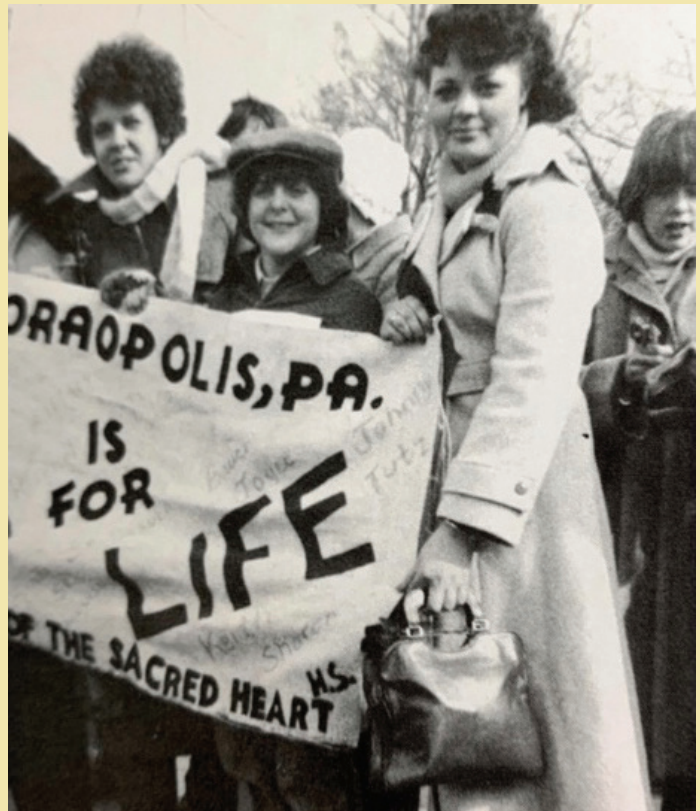
Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis

CO-EDUCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (1970 - PRESENT)

In the fall of 1970, Sister Mary Pulcheria welcomed the student body of slightly more than 100 students, including 16 boys. The significance of this day was underscored by a name change. No longer was the school to be called Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy, but now it was to be known as Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School.

The high school hired an athletic director and organized a basketball team for boys who named themselves the Chargers. It was clear that the school was moving forward. In other action, the dwindling aspirancy program was phased out and OLSH stopped accepting boarding students. In Spring 1971, the *Pittsburgh Catholic* featured an article on the increasing number of Catholic schools closing. A confident Sister Mary Pulcheria reported that Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School had no problem with enrollment and, in fact, anticipated some 20 more boys for the following school year along with the girls.¹⁵

Sister Mary Augustine Grajewski who had worked closely with Sister Mary Pulcheria to convert the Academy to a co-educational high school served as the next principal (1971-1973) followed by Sister Mary Lucille Staniszewski (1973-1976), Sister Mary Jeremiah Wisniewski (1976-1977) and Sister Mary Christopher Moore (1977-1995). These school administrators of the 1970s witnessed sustained and increasing enrollment. Contributing to that were the closures of two parish high schools in nearby McKees Rocks, St. Francis de Sales and St. Mary, in 1971 and 1975, respectively. When St. Mary High School shut its doors, the pastor paid for its students to transfer to OLSH — increasing



Students participate in March for Life, 1979

Source: OLSH Yearbook 1979

the enrollment from 131 to 202. A more lasting influence on enrollment was the 1979 verdict of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (*Springfield School District v. Department of Education*) affirming that public school districts must provide free transportation to private school children.¹⁶ This ruling made Our Lady of the Sacred Heart a “destination” school, enlarging its recruitment area beyond the Coraopolis and Moon Township service area. Four decades later, more than 15 school districts bus students to the high school.

Under Sister Mary Christopher Moore’s administration beginning in 1977, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School continued to grow in terms of enrollment and opportunities for its students. Encouraged by their Felician teachers, students began to champion the vulnerable. Five years after the landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, a pro-life group was formed on campus. From 1979 forward, OLSH students participated in the annual Pro-Life Rally held in Pittsburgh and, later, the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., a practice they continue to this day. Now in its 40th year of operation, students also established Our Lady’s Pantry in 1980 to provide hunger relief to local families, shelters, and those at risk of being homeless. In



Sister Mary Chrysantha Jaronski, OLSH librarian, 1970s

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

1990, Felician Sister Louise Marie Olsofka, then coordinator of the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, launched the Lovewalk for the Poor — an event that OLSH students, their families, and the Felician Sisters honor to this day.¹⁷

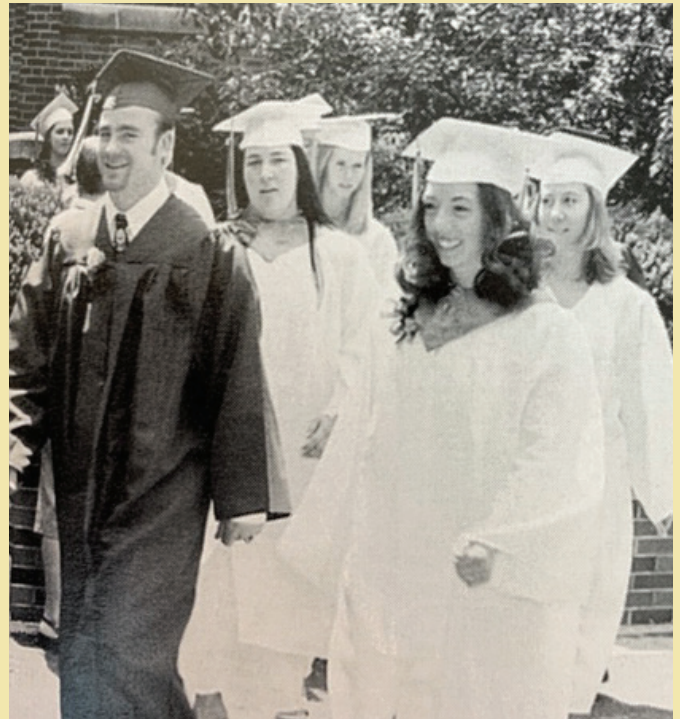
The 1980s were also marked by an emergency, a celebration, expansion, and incorporation. A fire of unknown origins destroyed the school's auditorium on March 18, 1982. Students and the sisters in the adjoining provincial house evacuated safely. Several months later, on July 25, a much happier occasion drew the OLSH community together to celebrate the golden jubilee of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School and the Felician presence in the Moon Township area. Countering a trend in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in which some two dozen Catholic private or parish high schools had closed between 1970 and 1985, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School stepped out in faith to build. Breaking ground was, according to Sister Mary Alexander Klawinski, then provincial minister, a sign that Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School was here to stay. The Angela Activities Center, a \$750,000 gym for competitive sports, was named in honor of the foundress of their congregation, Mother Mary Angela.¹⁸ Auxiliary Bishop John B. McDowell, who had years earlier blessed the idea of admitting boys, now blessed and dedicated the facility for boy and girl athletes on August 25, 1984.

The Felician Sisters took an important step in 1984 to ensure that the religious community's mission and values would guide Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School for the years to come. What had once been essentially a convent school — in which the principal worked within the provincial council to make decisions — was no longer that. With a growing enrollment, a shift in balance from sisters to a primarily lay faculty, and the very real possibility of lay leadership in the future, it was critical for the province to safeguard its influence by formalizing its relationship with the school. To that end, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School was separately incorporated with the provincial administration retaining oversight of the school and its mission. A board of directors, which at that time was made up of all Felician Sisters and would be reconfigured in 1995 to include lay people, provided support.

Through the generosity of a donor, the 1990s gave birth to the Youthtowne Young Scholars Program and World Youth Day scholarships for OLSH students and chaperones.¹⁹ Since 1994, OLSH High School has been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, most

recently for the period of 2018-2025.²⁰ The 1995-1996 school year broke all records with the enrollment of 319 students. That same year saw a change in administration. When Sister Mary Christopher was elected to provincial leadership, Sister Mary Francine Horos, who had served since 1984 as assistant principal, was appointed administrator and served in that position through the 2009-2010 school year. Christina Brooks next served as principal for one year (2010-2011). In 2011, Tim Plocinik became principal, a position he holds to present.

Renovation, relocation, and reorganization highlighted the first two decades of the new Millennium. In 2000, Sister Mary Cabrini Procopio, provincial minister of the Felician Sisters, proposed renovating completely the aging physical plant that housed the school, chapel and sisters' residence. In addition to improving community life for the sisters, Sister Mary Cabrini underscored that it would allow Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School to continue, thereby, giving witness to the heart, charism, and mission of foundress Blessed Mary Angela, who had been beatified in 1993.²¹ Former principal and then provincial vicar, Sister Mary Christopher Moore, urged the provincial council and architect, Laura Nettleton of Perkins Eastman, to consider "going green" given their Franciscan values of being good stewards of the earth. The decision was made to proceed.²²



OLSH graduates, 2002

Source: OLSH Yearbook 2002

“Preserve among yourselves a unity, peace, love and kindness...”

Monsignor Gorzynski, representing Bishop Hugh C. Boyle, breaks ground and blesses the land for the convent, chapel, and academy on March 30, 1930

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis



Laying of the Cornerstone Ceremony, May 31, 1931

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Convent/Coraopolis

Bishop Hugh C. Boyle dedicates the new Our Lady of the Sacred Heart convent, chapel, and academy on May 26, 1932

Source: *Pittsburgh Catholic*, June 2, 1932





The first six graduates of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy in 1935 all entered the Felician Sisters and are listed here by their religious names: Top Row (L-R): Sisters M. Bernard Nowak, M. Rita Matczak, M. Liliose Fien, M. Irene Grabowicz; Bottom Row (L-R): Sister M. Emmanuel Gibala, Rev. John L. Pudlo (Chaplain), Sister M. Miriam Patalaki

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis

From early on, young women were encouraged to pursue studies in science

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis



Students in gym class

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis





Present-day high school and chapel

Source: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School



OLSH students of today in chapel

Source: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School



2019 World Youth Day pilgrims were hosted in the factory of Fanklin Chu, a diesel mechanic who lives in Panama City, Panama

Source: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

...practice toward one another
gentleness, understanding
and cooperation.”

— Blessed Mary Angela

Father Kris D. Stubna joins the
OLSH community for blessing service
of renovated high school on
March 21, 2003

Source: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School



OLSH fields first football team, 2010

Source: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

The Felician Sisters of Krakow hosted the
OLSH students who attended
World Youth Day held in
Poland in 2016

Source: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School





During 2002-2003 renovation, OLSH was housed in the former Boyd School

Source: Archives of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent/Coraopolis

Between May 24-27, 2002, the following took place: 1) OLSH students, staff, and volunteers packed books, furniture, and essentials that were then transported some ten minutes away to leased classroom space housed in the former Boyd School; 2) the senior class graduated; and, 3) on the following day, Sota Construction Company gutted the high school. The Felician Sisters and teachers welcomed back students to their completely renovated, environmentally-friendly school with the latest technology on January 30, 2003. The renovated building would later receive a gold LEED rating for its green features. Father Kris D. Stubna, secretary for education for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, joined the OLSH High School community for a blessing ceremony on March 21, 2003 at which time students presented cards to Sister Mary Cabrini thanking her and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province for gifting them and future students. The two-story intergenerational Tisch Family Library opened in the renovated school in September 2004, accessible to both students and sisters.²³

With the completion of the renovation of the school and the provincial house, attention later turned to the Angela Activities Center. With the increased student population and expanding number of competitive sports and activities, the Angela Activities Center no longer met the demands of the OLSH athletic program. Renovation and expansion of the Angela Activities Center was completed in 2010, the year OLSH fielded its first football team.²⁴ In 2018-2019, OLSH won three WPIAL Championships — Football, Boys Basketball, and Girls Basketball.

Since 2001, students participating in the Girls Hope Program and living in Clinton began attending Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. Girls Hope, a nonprofit

organization helps academically capable and motivated girls, ages 10-18, who are at-risk in their homes or neighborhoods to become “women for others.” Established by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, the non-denominational program provides family-like homes, opportunities for growth, and education through college for its scholars. In 2009, the Clinton scholars were relocated to a newly built home on the west side of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart campus.

Governance of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School was reorganized when the school adopted the president/principal model. In this model, the president assumes leadership in business oversight, strategic marketing, mission integration, and securing resources while the principal manages day-to-day life including curriculum, programs, and faculty development. In 2008, the board of directors appointed Elizabeth A. Santillo, former chief financial officer of Oakland Catholic, as the first president of the school. Terry O’Rourke Donoghue succeeded her in 2012. Donoghue brought to OLSH extensive leadership experience in marketing, enrollment management, and planning gained in higher ed (Duquesne, LaRoche, and Carlow) and, as the mother of three OLSH graduates, familiarity with the school and its mission.

Reorganization was also on the hearts and minds of the Felician Sisters. On November 21, 2009, the eight Felician North American provinces united to become one — the Our Lady of Hope Province.²⁵ Sister Mary Christopher Moore, former provincial minister and principal of the high school, was elected to lead the newly established province. The Felician Sisters of North America and, in turn, all their sponsored ministries adopted a set of five values to guide them in living out Blessed Mary Angela’s call to “serve where you are needed.” The “Felician Core Values for Ministry” encompass respect for human dignity, compassion, transformation, solidarity with the poor, and peace and justice. While these values were in many ways already influencing Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, special care was taken to embed them in the weave of daily life. Added during the school year of 2010-2011 was the position of director of mission — with responsibilities for ongoing formation and education of the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

Under the leadership of the president and principal, Terry O’Rourke Donoghue and Tim Plocinik, OLSH continues to grow. Some 350 students are enrolled this current school year. More students than ever are taking advanced placement courses offered through partnerships with the

University of Notre Dame and Johns Hopkins University. The student body strives not only academically, but in serving others by annually contributing 10,000 hours or more to individuals and organizations in need. In addressing the graduating class of 2020, Plocinik acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted their senior year. The principal urged, however, to measure their year by what was gained, not lost. A third of the 77 seniors graduated with a 4.0 or higher, 38 earned the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence, four were National Merit Commended Scholars and one, a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, and the class as a whole was offered more than \$15 million in scholarships, the highest level ever for OLSH.²⁶

Only one Felician Sister remains today on the faculty. Math teacher and former administrator Sister Mary Francine Horos does not, however, shoulder alone the responsibility of imparting the Felician mission. The seeds of the mission and Felician Core Values have been planted and continue to grow. Blessed Mary Angela once said, “I wish I could multiply myself a hundred times and spread God’s love.” Her wish comes true each time a graduating class leaves Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School with a diploma in hand and the mission to serve impressed upon their heart.

Endnotes:

- ¹ Sister Mary Cherubim Jasinska, *Historia Zgromadzenia SS. Felicjanek na podstawie rękopisów, Część II [History of the Congregation of Felician Sisters Based on Manuscripts]* (Craow: SS Felicjanki, 1929), 277-278. Quoted in history written by Sister Mary Jane Kadyszewski, C.S.S.F., *One of the Family: History of the Felician Sisters — Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province, 1920-1977* (Pittsburgh: Wolfson Publishing, 1982), 29. Note: Father Dabrowski’s letter was directed to Mother Magdalen Borowska who succeeded Mother Mary Angela. Mother Mary Angela endorsed the plan and met with the pioneer sisters to bless them before their departure.
- ² Sisters Mary Irene Grabowicz (+ 2014), Mary Liliose Fien (+ 2012), and Mary Miriam Patalski (+ 2013), interview with author, November 19, 2008. All three members of the inaugural graduating class of the Academy had, at the time of their deaths, been members of the Felician community for nearly eight decades.
- ³ *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 1, 1932, 2.
- ⁴ “Felician Sisters Motherhouse Dedicated,” *Pittsburgh Catholic*, Vol. 89 (no. 21), 1.
- ⁵ Anthony Pyzdrowski was an architect, contractor, and construction engineer. Born in Poland and educated in Germany, he came to Pittsburgh in 1913 and was responsible for designing a number of buildings for Catholic institutions including Marion Manor (Greentree), Holy Family Institute (Emsworth), and Auberle Home for Boys (McKeesport) as well as churches. Obituary, *Pittsburgh Press*, July 21, 1964, 11.
- ⁶ Joint State Government Commission, General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, *Teacher Certification Grade Spans in Pennsylvania*, June 2019, 7. Note: The Edmund Act of 1921 set the standards for accrediting teachers. The Great Depression slowed attainment of degrees.
- ⁷ James G. Pentz, Chief of Pennsylvania State Board of Credentials, Harrisburg, to Sister Mary Eugenia, Principal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, April 8, 1935. Letter cited in Kadyszewski, *One of the Family*, 125.
- ⁸ H. J. Heinz himself invented the “factory tour” in 1899 at the end of which visitors went home with samples and the famous pickle pin. Tours were discontinued in 1972. The Syria Mosque was torn down in

- 1991.
- ⁹ Concerned that one-fourth of World War I draftees were illiterate, the NEA in 1919 called for one week each year to raise awareness of public schools and the importance of education. Source: National Education Association, “American Education Week in History,” accessed August 19, 2020, www.gpsnetwork.org/grants/61038.htm.
- ¹⁰ “Polish Refugees Find Haven Here,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, February 8, 1947, 2.
- ¹¹ In 1965, there were approximately 180,000 women religious (today: 31,350) and 59,000 priests (today: 37,000). There were 13,000 Catholic schools compared to slightly more than 6,000 in 2019.
- ¹² Sister Mary Pulcheria, CSSF, Principal, Our Lady of Sacred Heart Academy to Most Rev. John B. McDowell, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Pittsburgh, May 1, 1970.
- ¹³ Most Rev. John B. McDowell, Auxiliary Bishop, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Pittsburgh to Sister Mary Pulcheria, C.S.S.F., May 12, 1970.
- ¹⁴ Rebecca Mulvay, “40 Years of Co-Education,” *OLSH Highlights*, Spring 2011, 8.
- ¹⁵ William McClinton, “More diocesan schools closing as court considers state aid,” *Pittsburgh Catholic*, March 5, 1971, 2. The article also noted that OLSH was among five girls academies (Mt. Assisi, Vincentian, Holy Ghost, and St. Benedict) that planned to raise tuition to \$300 for the 1971/1972 year.
- ¹⁶ *Springfield School District v. Dept. of Education*, 397, A.2d 1154 (Pa 1979). Upholds Act 372 allowing for bussing within ten miles of the school boundary.
- ¹⁷ Sister Louise Marie Osofka always credited the Holy Spirit with inspiring her to create the Lovewalk for the Poor. Joining first for Mass, marchers would then carry food, clothing, and other donations to a drop-off center. Launched on the Sunday before St. Valentine’s Day 1990, Sister Louise Marie explained her scheduling a winter event as fostering solidarity with homeless people who are always out in the elements carrying their possessions.
- ¹⁸ Stephen Karlinchak, “Coraopolis school building new gym,” *Pittsburgh Catholic*, March 9, 1984, 1-2.
- ¹⁹ William Wolf, founder of Maronda Homes, the Maronda Foundation, and Youthtowne (an outdoor facility for youth activities in Clinton, PA), created the scholarship program to assist Our Lady of the Sacred Heart young women who wanted a Catholic education but could not afford one. The program was comprehensive offering a high school scholarship, summer mentoring, and a college scholarship. When OLSH’s sports programs were expanded, Mr. Wolf made available fields for soccer, softball, and baseball at Youthtowne. Through the Maronda Foundation, many OLSH students attended their first World Youth Day in Denver in 1993 — and, every few years after when the gatherings were held.
- ²⁰ Middle States accreditation is an impartial third-party validation that a school has achieved established standards of quality as measured by student performance, school leadership and governance, financial stability, health and safety, staffing, and long-range planning. In April 1990, the Diocese of Pittsburgh became the first major U.S. diocese to have all its elementary schools accredited and, by 1994, all high schools were accredited or in the final process.
- ²¹ Sister Mary Cabrini Procopio, “Present Options for the Renovation of Provincial House Complex,” Provincial Assembly, March 5, 2000.
- ²² The largest share of the \$22 million project cost was earmarked for the renovation of the high school followed by the provincial house and multigenerational space. Design: Perkins Eastman. Contractor: Sota Construction Services.
- ²³ Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Tisch, parents of three OLSH graduates, had been significant donors to the school and to the renovation project.
- ²⁴ LF Gilberti, architect, and Sota Construction Services, Inc. collaborated on the \$5 million renovation and expansion of the Angela Activities Center. Increased seating (625), two classrooms, two gyms, a weight room, four locker rooms, offices, a concession stand, and the Sister Mary Christopher Moore Café was the final result.
- ²⁵ The Felician provinces of Enfield, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Livonia, Michigan; Lodi, New Jersey; Rio Rancho, New Mexico; Buffalo, New York; Coraopolis, Pennsylvania; and, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada became the Our Lady of Hope Province, based in Beaver Falls, PA.
- ²⁶ Tim Plocinik, “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School Mass and Graduation,” Saints John and Paul Church, accessed June 28, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaWTXLVVGpE>.