



The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus



Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

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February is designated as Black History Month, and was first celebrated in 1970. Flaget High School was very fast to incorporate this recognition of the contributions by the black population. Flaget held a "Black Awareness Program" in 1970 and repeated it in 1971. Brother Edward Branch, the only black in the Xaverian order at the time was stationed at Flaget and was a great contributor to the school adjusting to the turbulent 1970s. The traveling Flaget Museum looks at:

THE INTEGRATION OF FLAGET HIGH SCHOOL

In 1904 the state of Kentucky passed a law which prohibited black and white students from attending the same educational facility be it public or private. This law was known as the Day Law named for the state representative who pushed it thru the legislature. Berea College challenged this law and lost at both the state and federal levels, taking the case all the way to the Supreme Court before the law was upheld. The law as interpreted made it a crime to even play an institution of the other race in a school sponsored athletic contest. In 1951 Saint Xavier openly defied the Day Law and started playing Louisville Central High School in both basketball and football. It is said that the Day Law was repealed in 1950, but a factual study shows that it was only amended and had little or no effect on the high schools in Louisville. It was not until 1954, that the legislation was totally repealed. In 1953 Flaget began to play Catholic Colored and Central in athletic contests. In 1958 Catholic Colored High School, which was founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1929, was closed. The reasoning by the Diocese of Louisville was that the black Catholic population of high school age would disperse into the other Catholic high schools. The next year, 1959, Flaget had its first black graduates, transfers from Catholic Colored. They were Harold Elery, his brother Raymond Elery, and Joseph Crowe. Incidentally St. X also had its first black graduates in 1959, one of the two being John Ellery, a cousin to the Elery brothers. (The names are spelled differently). However these three graduates from Flaget were not the first black enrollees at the school. That distinction belongs to John McGill of Saint Augustine parish, along with Paul Burks, and Charles Mudd who completed all four years at Flaget and graduated in 1960. Flaget of course continued to have a vibrant black student population until the doors were closed in 1974, graduating 159 black men and women.

AS ALWAYS, THE FLAGET MUSEUM IS SEEKING MEMORABILIA FOR DISPLAY. ATHLETIC PROGRAMS, LANDMARKS, AND ALL VINTAGE ITEMS RELATING TO FLAGET ARE NEEDED, NO MATTER HOW INSIGNIFICANT YOU MAY THINK THEY ARE.

simply bring them to a luncheon or call me for item pickup