



# The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall  
St. Xavier High School Campus



*Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association*

1942-1974

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## A SHORT STORY

Most all of us know of the long number of years that both Male and St. X high Schools have been around. And of course we always speak of Flaget as a school with a very short history, only thirty-two years. In Louisville however there are schools with even shorter existences. Stuart High School was only around for fourteen years and there are a few others that had a very short life, Thomas Jefferson being another. The record for the shortest life however is most likely right in our own back yard. In 1972 Flaget was scrambling to keep the school financially viable. Neighborhood population was declining, expenses were increasing, and the student population was dwindling. The answer was to create Flaget Junior High School. The seventh and eighth grade students who would be attending were taught the same subjects as in public junior high with the exception that French and physical education would be added to the curriculum. When the school year started forty-one new male students entered the Flaget community. The vast majority, all but eight, were African-American reflecting the changing demographics of the surrounding area. These forty-one new students would keep Flaget alive for another year and at that time it was thought that they would bolster the high school ranks in a couple years acting as a built in feeder system. The next year when Flaget became coed one hundred and one students were enrolled in the junior high. With the addition of the girls from Loretto the student population was actually increased to a sustainable level. Assuming that these numbers would have held steady Flaget should have remained a viable school. The reasons the archdiocese actually decided to close the school may never be known except by those who made the decision, but just going by the numbers, Flaget was in better shape than it had been for a few years prior. So when the school closed in 1974, Flaget Junior High School went out of business after only two years of operation, making it the shortest duration of any Kentucky school that I could research.

The Flaget Museum is always accepting vintage memorabilia for display. If you have something that you would like to donate, please bring it to any luncheon, drop it by the museum, or give me a call and I can pick it up. We are also looking for those who may not have visited the museum in a few years. Please drop by and by all means, sign the register.