



The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus



Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

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The Case of the disappearing brothers

Fifty years ago, 1968, mysterious things were happening at Flaget. Brothers were disappearing. The familiar black garb of the Xaverian Brothers were not as plentiful around school as they had been for years. In some cases familiar names of brothers, which had been spoken in hushed reverence for as long as students could remember, were no longer spoken. Replacing these apparently absent brothers were unfamiliar names such as Donald Reilly, Robert Mawdsley, and Charles Cully. In reality 1968 marked the first year in which some brothers used their baptismal names instead of the religious names they usually chose. In early 1968 the General Council, which has jurisdiction over the American Province of Xaverian Brothers, made some rule changes, which took some time to get accustomed to. The brothers continued to wear their habits for Mass, prayers, and their main meal in the community house, but beyond that, the brothers were free to wear whatever they wanted. Some of the brothers, especially some of the newer brothers also used their "civilian" names. It had been the custom for all brothers upon entering the brotherhood to adopt a saint's name or some derivation of it. Now however, their legal names could be used if desired. This change made it easier for obtaining drivers licenses and registering to vote as well as other instances where legal names were required. Most of the brothers who had been around for a while opted to retain their brotherhood name and continued to wear the habit on a daily basis.

The Flaget Museum as always is actively seeking items for display. Sports programs, trophies and awards, or just about any vintage item from the Flaget era is wanted. The exception at this time is we no longer have room to display clothing items, but be assured, if it is something very special, I will find a spot for it. Simply bring your items to any alumni luncheon, drop them off at the museum, or if you need pickup service for the items give me a call at the number above.