



# The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall  
St. Xavier High School Campus



*Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association*

1942-1974

Contact Information

Cindy Chipps, Curator  
4027 Brooks Hill Rd, Brooks, KY 40109

502 955-9238  
cchipps@iccable.com

## To Save Money, Remove the Crucifixes

1968 was a transitional year for Flaget High School. The enrollment had dropped to less than fifty percent of the high water mark of 1950. The outlook was bleak, and all parties involved were scrambling to stave off the persistent rumors of Flaget's demise. A plan was put forth by the Catholic School Board that might not only solve Flaget's immediate problem, but also would help out its neighboring Shawnee High School which was facing a big overcrowding problem. If Flaget were forced to close the overcrowding problem at Shawnee would be even worse. Flaget had plenty of extra room in their school building so it was decided that the Louisville Public School System would rent space in the Flaget building, five rooms to be exact. Science classes would be conducted in them, taught by teachers from Shawnee. This would be called the Shawnee Annex. Flaget students would attend these classes and the Catholic School Board would pay an amount per Flaget student attending. Annette Gohmann, Edward Carlton, and Solomon Madison, all Shawnee teachers, would be the ones teaching biology, chemistry, and physics. For this shared time program not to be in violation of a separation of church and state policy, the crucifixes and religious symbols had to be removed from the five rooms on the first floor and the hall connecting them. The Attorney General at the time for the state of Kentucky stated that this merging was perfectly legal and fell within already established guidelines of other shared time programs in existence. This program however was the first of its kind where the public school came to the students and not where the students were bused to a public school for some classes. A monetary savings was achieved, but as we all know, within a few years, the results were not enough to save the school.

The Flaget Museum is actively seeking vintage memorabilia from the school. Athletic programs, trophies, jewelry, and just about any other vintage items from the school will be accepted. Bring your donations to any alumni luncheon, drop them off at the museum, or call me if necessary for items which may need to be picked up.