



The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus



Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

Contact Information

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Flaget Junior High School

The vast majority of us attended a parish school for our education. We progressed through eight grades and when graduated we went on to a high school. As most of us know, this of course was not the case with those who attended a public school. They progressed through six grades and then moved on to a junior high school until they joined the student body of a high school. In 1972 with the persistent rumors of Flaget shutting down, it was announced that both Loretto and Flaget would begin a junior high school program for the 1972-73 school year. The idea was to ease the over crowding of some local Catholic grade schools and at the same time provide a feeder system into the high schools which were suffering from low attendance. During the seventies many Catholic elementary schools were dropping their seventh and eighth grades as an economy measure. Mercy Academy began offering a junior high program in 1971. The junior high addition at Flaget of forty-one students seemed to satisfy the archdiocese which stated that Flaget needed to maintain a level of 250 students and pay one-half of the schools operating budget to remain open. There were approximately 276 total students attending Flaget at this point. During the second year of the junior high there were 101 in the junior high program. With the addition of female students from Loretto which had made the decision to close with the 1973 graduating class, the total enrollment was about 420. With the diocesan conditions far exceeded, Flaget seemed to be in stable condition. An additional freshman class was added and some students wanting to transfer in were turned away. The school abruptly closed with the 1974 graduating class. This of course ended the two-year existence of Flaget Junior High School. A total of about 153 students can claim to have attended Flaget Junior High. In 1974 after the closing of Flaget was announced there were serious discussions of continuing Flaget as a junior high program. The program was not to be at the same location, for it was said that the cost of building maintenance was too high. This discussion went nowhere and the school closed despite meeting the stated diocesan requirements. A seldom-discussed statement and possibly the biggest reason that entered into the final decision to close Flaget was made by the bishop and Catholic school board. At this time bussing was just beginning to be used to correct the problem of segregation in the Louisville public school system. The pronouncement was made by the bishop that he did not want Flaget becoming a haven for those trying to avoid being bussed. Ironically with the many transfer requests being received by Flaget at the time, the monetary and numbers requirements placed upon Flaget would have been very easily obtained and Flaget could have continued in a viable manner.

Thanks to an anonymous donor the museum will shortly have a full band uniform minus the hat. Because of this the museum is in need of a full body mannequin and a Flaget band hat. If you can help in this endeavor, please contact me. As always, we are accepting any vintage Flaget memorabilia for display in the museum.