



The Flaget Museum



Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus

Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

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MANY BEADS FROM ONE SEED

Joseph Mattingly was born to a very religious family in Leitchfield Kentucky in 1882. His father is remembered as a consistent contributor to "The Record". Joseph was one of four children. His older brother joined the Xaverian order and his two sisters became nuns. He followed his brother and became a Xaverian in 1898, taking the name of Brother Sylvan. He had a passion and a talent for making rosaries which he shared with anyone who was interested. He taught at Leonard Hall in Maryland, St. Xavier in Louisville as well as Mt. St. Joseph. He spent one school year at Flaget, 1944-45. The following year he returned to St. X for a second time. In 1949 with a \$25 donation he started a rosary-making club in the basement of St. X. From this small beginning grew the present day Our Lady's Rosary Makers. It is a non-profit Catholic apostolate dedicated to spreading devotion to the Virgin Mary and the Rosary. According to the OLRM web site, its 17,000 members, in the U.S. and other countries, make and distribute roughly seven million cord and chain rosaries annually for missions around the world, which have to date numbered in the hundreds of millions of



Brother Sylvan, CFX

rosaries distributed. The core of Our Lady's Rosary Makers operation is the bimonthly newsletter *Our Lady's Messenger*, which reaches approximately twenty thousand people. By 2013, they averaged filling 6.5 million orders a year for rosary making supplies. The bulk of the newsletter is a section called "Request for Rosaries". Catholic missionaries worldwide in need of rosaries write to Our Lady's Rosary Makers asking for their names and addresses to be published in the newsletter. The newsletter also includes news and feedback letters from missionaries. There are also requests for Rosaries from prison and hospital chaplains, religious educators, etc. The members of Our Lady's Rosary Makers are mostly in the U.S. The makeup and characteristics of the members are diverse: some are working adults, some are blind or otherwise disabled, some are elementary school students, while others are in retirement homes. When members receive the bimonthly newsletter, they look through the list of missionaries who have requested rosaries; they then make and send packages of rosaries to them. There is no central control; members select missionaries from the newsletter, who then wait for their packages of rosaries to arrive. Brother Sylvan died on December 30, 1951 at the age of sixty-nine having spent about fifty-three years in the brotherhood.

GOOD NEWS!!!

The Flaget Museum has reopened! I have given it the Spring cleaning treatment so it is ready for viewing during normal school hours. Be prepared to have your temperature taken and possibly other safety precautions, but it is again open.