

## A BRIEF HISTORY...

Catholic education in Boise dates back to 1877 when Fr. Alex J. Archambault was transferred to Boise. He brought with him St. Joseph's School, the Catholic school he had operated in Idaho City, and taught the children himself until his transfer to Oregon in 1890. Boise then had no Catholic school until the Sisters of the Holy Cross opened an Academy for Girls in 1889 in St. Patrick's Hall, adjacent to the original St. John's Parish at 9th and Bannock Streets.

In 1891, the Sisters moved their Academy to the site on State Street where the Idaho State Library now stands. Meanwhile, several attempts were made to start a boys' school. Finally, in 1900, Bishop Alphonse Glorieux remodeled St. Patrick's Hall and opened a new school, again named for St. Joseph that was an immediate success.

In 1902, Bishop Glorieux purchased the property at 8th and Fort Streets that was to be the site of the new St. John's Cathedral. The old St. John's was to be moved to the site to serve as church and school during construction, but the building burned as it was being relocated. A foundation had already been prepared, so the church was rebuilt and St. Patrick's Hall moved in along side it, next to the foundations of the new cathedral. As soon as the cathedral basement was complete, it served as the church, the hall was demolished, and the temporary church became St. Joseph's School for the next twelve years.

Bishop Daniel M. Gorman succeeded Bishop Glorieux in 1918 and, like his predecessor, strongly advocated Catholic education. In 1925, under the leadership of Bishop Gorman and the Rev. Joseph M. Verhoeven, Rector of the Cathedral, a new red brick school building was completed at the corner of 9th and Fort Streets. The new building had eight classrooms and cost \$38,000. Its completion allowed the old school building to be converted into a gymnasium. The school originally served grades one through ten. The eleventh grade was added in 1926 and twelfth in 1927. School activities also expanded, eventually including a Catholic Students Club, journalism class, a school paper called *The Echo*, football and basketball teams, and an orchestra.

In 1927, Bishop Gorman died and was succeeded by Bishop Edward J. Kelly. Bishop Kelly identified the need to accommodate the growing school population and in 1933, with permission of the Sisters, transferred the high school boys to St. Teresa's Academy.

The old building that had in its lifetime been a church, school, and gymnasium was tom down in 1941. In 1948, the current gymnasium was constructed to replace it, at a cost of \$89,000. The Parish retired this debt by 1952. The new building could seat 400 people on permanent bleachers and included meeting rooms and a small kitchen.

In 1946, Father Kenneth Rowe, Pastor of St. John's, began suggesting that all grade school boys and girls attend St. Joseph's and that St. Teresa's take the high school ages. In the spring of 1953, Bishop Kelly approved this measure and that fall saw the first co-educational class at St. Joseph's.

The year 1991 brought the addition of the Media Center, office, and additional classroom space to the school building. In 1997, a new heating and air conditioning system and energy efficient windows were installed to increase efficiency and comfort, and to improve the learning environment. In 1999, the school office and library were remodeled. The changes to the office increased school security and productivity. The 2002 addition expanded the Media Center and provided five new classrooms including a Science Lab and Art Room.

Enrollment for 2010-2011 is anticipated to be about 340 students, in grades K - 8.