

Carroll College  
or  
"Jack's Castle" From Dreams to Reality  
**(An Analysis of Four Score and More Years of Challenge and Success)**

*Editors Note: The following presentation was made by Fr. William Greytak, a Carroll history professor, and David McGoldrick, history alum, on Nov. 4, 1991, in honor of St. Charles Borromeo, the patron of Carroll College.*

As you entered here tonight, I am sure that many of you turned your glance up and admired the main building of the college, "Charlies" as it is called, standing out on top of the hill. I know I did. In 1980, when I first came to Helena with my Dad, I remember looking up at that building and thinking, "Wow there is something to rival the gold dome of Notre Dame." Anyone visiting Helena cannot help but look up and see "Charlies."

There is a story that, one night in the early years of the College, two priests, Father Jeremiah Lehane and Father John Delane were out about the grounds when they saw a lone figure pacing up and down Benton Avenue looking up and admiring the building. They recognized this person as the Bishop himself, Bishop John Patrick Carroll. Fr. Lehane is said to have looked up at the building as well and remarked, "There is Jack's Castle!" Yes, "There is Jack's Castle," but the struggle to make that "castle" a reality has not been easy.

Bishop Carroll was not the first person to want a Catholic college in Montana. On October 14, 1884, Bishop John Baptiste Brondel, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Montana, wrote to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome saying: "An extraordinary appropriation is asked, as I desire to build a college for boys."

Bishop Brondel had arrived in Montana in 1883. Upon his arrival he found only five diocesan priests along with 12 Jesuit priests. The Jesuit priests were hoping to return to their missionary work and leave the religious concerns of the Diocese and the 15,000 Catholics in Montana to the Bishop and the diocesan priests. However, with such a small number of diocesan priests this was not possible. Bishop Brondel thus conceived of a college for boys in order to help create a native clergy. In June 1887, he requested the assistance of the Jesuits who are famous for their colleges to help build his college. At the second Diocesan Synod, Bishop Brondel, along with the Jesuit fathers, wrote a petition to Father General of the Jesuit society for permission to build a college in Helena. Permission was granted and the task of raising funds and buying land began. The Jesuits were able to purchase the land, but unfortunately they had little success in raising the money. Faced with the lack of funds, the first effort to build the college had failed. The Jesuits donated the land they had purchased to the Sisters of Charity so that the sisters could build a new orphans' home. Although Bishop Brondel would never build his college, he did give birth to the idea of a Catholic college in Montana.

Even before the arrival of Bishop Brondel, the Jesuits had opened a boys' school in Helena. This school named St. Aloysius was an elementary school that held its classes in the printing office of the old *Rocky Mountain Gazette* newspaper building. In 1882 St. Aloysius expanded to include high school courses. The school moved a number of times, but by 1902 it was forced to close due to lack of support.

When Bishop Brondel died on November 3, 1903, he left behind a Diocese with 38 Diocesan priests, nine parochial schools, 50,000 Catholics, and a dream of a Catholic college.

On May 18, 1904, Pope Pius X issued a brief creating the Diocese of Great Falls, which divided the large Diocese of Montana. Father John Patrick Carroll was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Helena on September 12, 1904, and arrived in Helena on January 30, 1905. He brought with him a vast wealth of experience in religious education, especially at the college level. In 1889, immediately after his ordination, Fr. Carroll was assigned to the faculty of St. Joseph's College, his Alma Mater in Iowa. In 1894, he was appointed president of the college by Archbishop Hennessy. Fr. Carroll was still president in 1904 when he was named Bishop of the Diocese of Helena.

One of Fr. Carroll's first acts as bishop was to reopen St. Aloysius High School in September 1905. However, due to lack of a domestic staff the school was only able to take day-students. In 1906 Bishop Carroll requested the help of Sister Cornelia of St. John's Hospital. Sr. Cornelia took control of the domestic affairs of the students, which allowed the school to take on boarders. The student body increased quite rapidly and by 1908 it became apparent that a new building would be needed. The time had arrived to join Bishop Brondel's idea for a Catholic college with Bishop Carroll's educational experience and drive.

Bishop Carroll first looked for the ideal site to build his college. He wanted it close to Helena so he could be directly involved in its growth. Because of this, the idea of building anywhere but in Helena was never considered. As you look around Helena you will notice that, in addition to the surrounding mountains, the city has one main hill. When Helena was fighting to become the state capital, it was thought that on this rocky hilltop the capital building would be built. Thus the hill became known as Capital Hill. Why the capital was never built here I do not know, but the owners of the 50 acres wanted the land to be saved for a structure that should lend pride and ornament to the hill. Bishop Carroll could think of no better structure than a place of religion and education. It was a perfect site outside the city limits yet close enough to benefit from the city. The site was balanced by a view of the Prickly Pear Valley. The College is in great debt to Mrs. A.P. Thatcher, daughter of former Governor Hauser; to Mr. James J. Hill, president of Great Northern Railway; and to Mr. Thomas Marlow, agent for the Bertine Estate for donating the entire 50 acres to the Diocese for the future college.

In the first attempt to build a college Bishop Brondel and the Jesuit priests were unable to raise the funds needed to complete the task. However, as a former president of a college, Bishop Carroll knew how to raise funds. The first active step was taken by the Order of

Hibernians in Butte. On September 26, 1908, they donated \$5,000 to the building fund of the college.

When Fr. Carroll became Bishop, he inherited the former Burke and Balaklava Mine which had been willed to the Catholic Diocese of Montana by Mr. James Twohy. Bishop Carroll sold the mine in 1907 for approximately \$275,000 and put the money into the building fund for the College.

Bishop Carroll also requested donations from his parishioners for the building fund. He especially focused on his more prominent parishioners. Among them Mr. John D. Ryan, Judge John J. McHatton, Mrs. D. J. Hennessy of Butte, Mrs. Peter Larson, and Miss Sarah E. Power of Helena all made substantial contributions to the college. Senator Thomas H. Carter not only donated to the College fund, but he also worked on behalf of the Bishop to negotiate a loan for the College.

One man to whom the College is forever indebted is Mr. James J. Hill. He was not of the Catholic faith, yet married to a strong Irish Catholic girl. He was a close friend of Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Hill believed very strongly in religious education and as president of The Great Northern Railroad, he helped to get a part of the land needed for the College to be donated to the College. In 1914 Mr. Hill told Bishop Carroll that he would give \$50,000 to the endowment fund of the College, if the Bishop were to raise \$100,000. On Nov. 16, 1914, James J. Hill gave to Bishop Carroll his check for \$50,000.

With the funds being raised, the next step for Bishop Carroll was a design for the College and a contractor to build it. At the same time that the College was being planned, Bishop Carroll was also working on his Cathedral, as well as on St. Helena School. Architect A.W. VonHerbulis of Washington, D.C., designed all three of Bishop Carroll's buildings. The College building was to be five stories, 180 feet in width and 55 feet in depth. The building would be the first of three, with the other two being built when needed. On June 16, 1909, Bishop Carroll broke ground for the first building in the presence of the St. Aloysius Institute student body and the priests of the city. Mr. Peter Jungers, a subcontractor, began work immediately. The building was to be constructed of red porphyry, a native stone, with a steel roof, and concrete and marble stairway. It would also be the first fireproof building in the Northwest.

The laying of the cornerstone is one of the more important events in the construction of a building. As it happened, in September of 1909, the President of the United States, William Howard Taft, was travelling through Montana on his way to Washington state. While he was in Helena, on Sept. 27, 1909, the President attended the Montana State Fair. As he was returning to the city, the President was asked if he would assist in laying a cornerstone for a small Catholic college. President Taft graciously agreed to Bishop Carroll's request and as his car turned off Benton Avenue onto Lyndale Avenue to go to the college, the Secret Service in the car behind, lost the biggest President of the United States. While the Secret Service frantically searched for their charge, President Taft thus assisted Bishop Carroll in laying the cornerstone for the College. In a short speech, the

Bishop said, "The aim of Capital Hill College will be to give the young men of Montana a thorough, liberal education which will fit them for leadership in any vocation they may choose and at the same time so surround them with a religious atmosphere that they may ever follow conscience as their king." President Taft responded in part, "It gives me great pleasure to participate in the laying of cornerstones of institutions of learning, whether of church or state. The College you are building here will be a blessing to Helena and to the whole State of Montana."

The name of a college is not merely a name, it is something with which alumni can identify, it is something with which to build pride. Bishop Carroll mentioned the name Capital Hill College in his speech, yet being a Catholic College it was felt a more religious name was needed. The first blueprints for the college show the name St. James College. However, it was at this time that Pope Pius X issued an encyclical commemorating St. Charles Borromeo, the saintly and scholarly archbishop who first promoted the idea of a Diocesan college at the Council of Trent 300 years earlier. Bishop Carroll decided to make St. Charles Borromeo the patron of the College and gave it the name Mount St. Charles College. The College would be known as Mount St. Charles until 1932, when on March 30th, the name would be changed to Carroll College in honor of its founder.

The search for students and teachers now began in order to fill the College. Bishop Carroll wrote a pastoral letter to all his parishes announcing the expected opening of Mount St. Charles College on Sept. 14, 1910, and he encouraged the priests to enlist students from their parishes. The school courses would include a preparatory department for boys 10 and older, four years of high school, and four years of college. Finding a good faculty to instruct the students was very important. Bishop Carroll, as a former college professor himself, knew how important the faculty is to a college. The first faculty of eight priests and three laymen brought favorable recognition to Mount St. Charles College. The editors of *The New World* (a school evaluating agency) of Chicago stated how impressed they were with the curriculum at Mount St. Charles College and they predicted great success for the school. However, success did not start on time. The College was forced to postpone the opening until Sept. 22, 1910, due to a lack of furniture. The doors finally opened and 56 students entered studies: 33 going to the junior high and the other 23 entering the senior level. Even though most of the students came from Montana, other states sent their young men as well as did overseas countries like the Philippines. Seven students graduated from the high school on June 14, 1911.

The first college students entered studies on September 12, 1911. They were Charles J. Gabisch, a Mount St. Charles High School graduate, and Frank W. Carpino of Meaderville. They had two major areas of study from which to choose: a bachelor of arts degree in the combined fields of Latin and Greek or a general bachelor of science degree. The first student to graduate from Mount St. Charles College was Patrick McVeigh of Butte, who entered the College in 1912 and graduated in the spring of 1916. Patrick went on to become the first Montanan to be ordained a priest. He returned to his Alma Mater to teach chemistry and remained with Mount St. Charles College until his death.

Bishop Carroll celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood in 1914. During the meal Bishop Carroll gave to Reverend John L. McMullen, then president of the College, the note of debt on the College with instructions for him to tear it up. Bishop Carroll had used the money given to him on the occasion of his jubilee, over \$22,000, to pay off the debt. This left the College free of debt and ready to grow. In 1916 the school was incorporated under Montana State Law and in 1919 it was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools as a degree granting institution. Mount St. Charles became a member in the Association of American College in 1922 and in 1931 it was registered and approved by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

As Mount St. Charles College was receiving official recognition, it was also adding to the curriculum. Two pre-professional fields of study were added in 1917: pre-law and pre-medicine. A two-year basic engineering curriculum was added in 1922 and in 1923 the Department of Education opened.

The College was not only enlarging its curriculum, it was expanding physically as well. In 1917- 1918 an addition to the north side of the original building was constructed. This building housed the gymnasium and the Science Department. Three floors of dorm rooms were planned to be built above the gym, but this never happened. In 1923-24 a building housing the chapel, the library, and more residents' rooms, was added to the south side of the original building. The construction of these two additions finished the original plans for the College. Then in 1924 a convent was built behind the original buildings to house Dominican Sisters from Germany.

Mount St. Charles College had much more going for it than just a good curriculum. Behind the original building a 60-square-foot covered handball court was available for the students and faculty. In front, where O'Connell Hall stands today, there was a 300-foot by 200-foot pond known as "Lake Bluff" which doubled as a skating rink in the winter. It is interesting to observe that even then Mount St. Charles students were concerned about the ecology. On Arbor Day 1918, they planted 170 trees to help add to the beauty of Capital Hill.

When the United States went to war in 1917, so too did Mount St. Charles College. Not only did students leave to fight overseas, but the second president of the College, Fr. John McMullen, went to the Mexican border as chaplain for the Montana State National Guard. With a great decline in the number of students due to the War, the President of the College feared closing the College after only nine years of existence. However, Bishop Carroll was not about to let his College close. He requested that the College be accepted into the Student Army Training Corps, SATC, a forerunner to ROTC. The corps was in existence for only a few months when the War ended. However, Mount St. Charles had survived and was able to move confidently into its second decade.

On November 4, 1925, in the sixteenth year of the College, Bishop John Patrick Carroll died. He left behind a growing college. He had seen 21 students graduate from his College, of whom 12 went on to become priests. While numerous people had helped in

many ways to build Mount St. Charles College, on that day in 1925 the College could truly be called “Jack's Castle.”

*(This concludes Mr. McGoldrick's presentation. The following section was presented by Prof. Greytak.)*

As we have just heard, it was Bishop John Baptiste Brondel who first dreamed of a college for his Diocese of Montana. It was, however, his successor, Bishop John Patrick Carroll who built both a college and a Cathedral for the Diocese of Helena. The Cathedral of St. Helena, patterned after the famed Votive Church in Vienna, was formally consecrated in 1924, one day after the dedication of the new south wing of Mount St. Charles College. To this day, the Cathedral and the College stand as magnificent cultural and religious achievements that inspire the large number of Catholics in Montana and continue to remind them of the prominent role that the Catholic Church has played in the history of the state's growth and development.

When Bishop Carroll died in November of 1925, his zeal and care for the College were continued by his successor, the third Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop George J. Finnigan, a member of the congregation of Holy Cross. If Bishop Brondel and Bishop Carroll had dreamed great dreams for the College, it was Bishop Finnigan who nourished and enlarged those dreams. He brought to Mount St. Charles the great traditions of the University of Notre Dame. On Aug. 7, 1928, he wrote to R. Vincent Kavanagh, then a seminarian who later was to become a president of the College: “This is to acknowledge your good letter of July 25th. I was away at the time it came canvassing for students. The results will have to be reckoned later on. I trust there will be a real increase. The priests of the College have done more than their share and God will reward. Fr. Thomas Killila (of the English Department) and I did some 1,000 mile by car and 1,200 miles by train . . .” In addition to his personal involvement with student recruitment, Bishop Finnigan made frequent trips to the East where he could often be seen standing in front of a church following the Sunday Liturgy, hat in hand, requesting any financial assistance that might be given for his small college in Helena, Montana.

It was Bishop Finnigan who enticed an assistant football coach at Notre Dame, William B. Jones, to come to Mount St. Charles College. Jones had been a freshman under Knut Rochne. In 1931, Jones fielded for the College a football team that was undefeated, untied, and unscored upon. In the process the team had scored 187 points. It had defeated the Grizzlies of the University of Montana 2 to 0 and the Bobcats of Montana State College 6 to 0. Clearly by 1931, the Fighting Saints “Tradition of Champions” was well begun. In inter-collegiate athletics and in forensics as well, it is a tradition that continues to the present time. As has been noted, it was Bishop Finnigan's sense of history that explains why the college bears its present name. As one of the last actions of his administration, in 1932 he re-named Mount St. Charles College: Carroll College in honor of its founder: Bishop John Patrick Carroll.

When Bishop Finnigan died in 1932, the College was in the administration of its fifth president: the great and gifted Monsignor Norbert C. Hoff. Four priest presidents had

preceded him. Fr. Stephen Sullivan, first president of the College (1910-1912); Fr. John McMullen, second president (1912-1917); Fr. Peter F. McDonald, third president (1917-1919); and Fr. John J. Tracy, fourth president (1919-1920). During those early years, financial stringencies plagued the College. Still it continued with policies similar to what Bishop Carroll had stated in June of 1918 when he wrote: "To place the higher education within the reach of as large a number as possible, the College has decided, notwithstanding the increased costs of foodstuffs and labor, to maintain the low fee the preceding year -- a fee which barely covers the cost of board and lodging. In other words, she offers the higher education absolutely free." To be able to do that, administrative and maintenance costs had to be kept to a bare minimum. For example, since arriving at the College in 1925, 12 Dominican Sisters from Germany, housed in what now is St. Albert Hall, were responsible for all of the dining services of the College. In addition, until 1934, they performed all of the janitorial work of the College. They were expected to clean the classrooms, the halls, the stairways, and the priest faculty rooms. With selfless dedication, often, as they said, without the three cents needed to buy a stamp so that they could mail a letter, these wonderful sisters continued to do all of the cooking and kitchen work of the College for 36 years (until 1961, when a professional food service was hired by the College). For its part, the resident priest faculty, in addition to already large teaching loads, assumed most of the administrative tasks of the College with no added financial compensation with no lessening of their teaching responsibilities.

During the presidency of Monsignor Hoff's successor, the truly great Monsignor Emmet J. Riley, the College experienced its most critical years. Monsignor Riley was the first alumnus of the College to serve as president of the College, a post he held from 1932-1951. During those years, he was particularly eager to attract qualified lay teachers to the College. Even as he was attempting to do so, the Great Depression of the 1930s very nearly forced him to close the doors of the College for good. In order to keep it open and still financially accessible to prospective students, he appealed to the generosity of the faculty and staff of the College. It was their willingness to accept drastic salary cuts that enabled the College to remain in operation. Riley, the faculty and staff of the College, working often only for board and room expenses, had in effect personally subsidized the educational costs of the College. A letter written by Monsignor Riley on the 18th of October 1934 reveals the extent of the financial restraints confronting the College. He wrote: "Dear Mr. Batzer, I would like to buy some crude oil to be used as ... a preservative for an outdoor handball court. How much would you charge a gallon? I think I would need about a barrel. May I hear from you soon?" When he learned that the cost would be about forty dollars, he worried, that although it was needed, it might nevertheless be too great an expense on the College in such economically hard times.

Even as the effects of the Depression had begun to diminish, disastrous earthquakes struck Helena in October of 1935. Serious damage was done to the buildings of the College, causing Monsignor Riley to close the college for a period of 10 days until officials could be certain that the buildings were safe for student occupancy. The quakes had done severe damage to the City of Helena as well. St. Joseph's Orphanage, for example, was nearly destroyed leaving the young occupants homeless once again. When the then heavy-weight boxing champion, the "Happy Warrior," James J. Braddock,

learned of the orphans' plight, he offered to do a benefit fight in Madison Square Garden to help house the orphans in Helena. It was from the stones that had fallen from the cornices and the top of the College that the present astronomy building was constructed by the students under the direction of Dr. Edward W. Neuman, chemistry professor of the College. He also helped the students build the large telescope that was to be housed in the new building. In 1946, Carroll's astronomy lab gained great recognition, featured as it was on the front cover of a nationally circulated astronomy magazine.

The College really came of age in 1936, when, in that year, the high school department of Carroll moved to the newly constructed Cathedral High School. With that, Carroll was officially a liberal arts Diocesan boarding college for men with special emphasis on programs which prepared students for the priesthood or for careers in law, medicine, teaching, and engineering.

When World War II began, once again the possibility that the College might be forced to close its doors became a real concern. Before leaving to seek government approval and the financial assistance needed to establish a Navy V-5 Training Program at the College, Monsignor Riley called the faculty and staff together. He asked for their earnest prayers and candidly informed them that the future of the College was at stake. If, despite then Congressman Mansfield's help, the government was unwilling to help transform the small aeronautics program of the College into a government supported naval training program, then, seriously short as it was of funds, due to the dangerously low number of students at the College as more and more young men were drafted, the College would have no other choice but to close. Fortunately, Monsignor Riley succeeded. The College was selected as a V-5 Training Center. More, in April of 1943, it was also designated to set up a V-12 Program for the Navy. During the next two years, over 700 Naval trainees lived and studied at the College. These Navy students imposed their own jargon on the College. Each part of St. Charles Hall was re-named in accordance with official Naval terminology. Entrances were gangways', floors were decks, thus third deck, four main deck, and so forth. The back entrance of St. Charles was called the fantail, since the large cemented deck in the back reminded the cadets of the fantail of a ship. The College had a starboard, a port side, a fore, and an aft. In a more serious vein, in keeping with national wartime training schedules, in February of 1942 the College adopted an accelerated program of studies under which Carroll offered annually three 16-week semesters and a policy of accepting high school juniors to the College, provided they were in the upper third of their class. It was because of the strong support of the government, especially with their funding for the V-5 and V-12 programs, that the College survived what otherwise would certainly have been a lethal blow. By any assessment, it was obvious that by his determination, Monsignor Riley had avoided what otherwise might have been the end of Carroll College.

By November of 1945, the College was completely restored to civilian status. The Naval Training Programs were terminated. Enrollments soared to an all-time high as returning veterans sought to complete their interrupted education. Among them were many married students eager to earn a college degree. To accommodate them, property was purchased adjacent to the College and government military housing was moved in to form what

came to be known as “Carroll Village.” For the next several years, married G.I. students together with many young lay faculty and their families lived in “Carroll Village” which today is the site of Lundy's Shopping Center. Generous government loans to veterans made the College a very real option for many G. I.'s.

In 1946, in cooperation with the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, the College inaugurated a three-year program for nursing education. Nursing students took a year of classes at the College, during which time they were housed at Immaculata Hall, south of the old Helena Courthouse on Ewing Avenue. Following their year at Carroll, they left to do “hands on” hospital training at St. James Hospital in Butte or at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings. The nursing students were always the most enthusiastic supporters whenever Carroll's athletic, forensics, or musical events took place in Butte or Billings. After two years, they returned to the College for an official capping ceremony which took place the night before the annual graduation ceremonies of the College. In those days, graduation took place in the Helena Civic Center. Effectively, it was the nursing students who blazed the trail for the co-ed students who were soon to be part of the student body of the College.

During the academic year 1945-46, a major reorganization took place in the department structure of the College. The offerings of the College were divided into six groups: the Division of Philosophy, Religion and Education, the Division of Language and Literature, the Division of Science and Mathematics, the Division of Social Sciences, the Division of Health and Physical Education, and the Division of Nursing. Chairpersons for each of these divisions were chosen by the faculty. This system remained in effect from 1946 to 1983 when a newly-expanded faculty council system came into being with elected committees from the faculty to oversee the concerns of faculty and students.

In 1949, the Department of Business Education was added to the curriculum of the College. In the same year, students who wished to major in medical technology were accepted into the newly established Department of Medical Arts. Particularly important for the College was the approval in 1949 that Carroll be admitted to membership in the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools. Since then, at 10-year intervals, the College has been required to submit a complete report of all aspects of its operation to an on-site visitation team in order that the College might continue to be an officially accredited degree granting institution. There is a five-year follow-up on all recommendations made in the final accreditation report to insure that the changes suggested by the accreditation team are being implemented. Failure to do so could result in the loss of accreditation. Since joining the Northwest Regional Association, the College has always passed the inspection, most often with high commendation for the administration and the academic programs of the College.

In 1950, because of an increasing number of co-ed students who were not from the City of Helena, the former Hoffer home on the west side of town was acquired by the College to serve as an off campus co-ed residence. Renamed Siena Hall, the home was placed under the supervision of the Dominican sisters. For the co-ed students as well as for the on-campus resident male students, there were clearly stated rules and expectations as the

College continued to see itself as acting “in loco parentis” (that is, in the place of the parents) with regard to students who were enrolled at the College. In keeping with the motto of the College: Non Scholae Sed Vitae (that learning at the College was not only for school but for life) every evening each student was to be at his or her desk by 7:30 to begin study. This regulated study period lasted until 10 o'clock. The resident dean of discipline (for on-campus male students, a priest dean of men who was also a member of the teaching faculty) checked every student room personally to insure that evening study was being observed without any undue absences or interruptions. From 10 to 10:30 p.m. there was a brief recreation period. Students could leave their rooms to visit other rooms or to go to the snack bar (the 'Canteen' as it was then called) to buy a milk shake or other light refreshments. From 10:30 to 10:45 p.m. students were to prepare for bed. At 10:45 p.m. they were to be in bed with lights out. Once again, flashlight in hand to peer into darkened rooms, the resident dean checked all rooms. Incredibly, some students were known to stuff their beds with facsimiles of sleeping bodies so that they might be able to slip downtown for a while! Apprehension for this breach of discipline could result in a two-week or 30-day campus, which meant that the student was not to leave the campus at any time. Freshmen and sophomore students were granted one permission or “per” as it was called, which entitled them to go to town one evening a week until midnight, at which time they were to check in personally with the resident dean and quietly go to bed. Junior and senior students were entitled to two “pers” a week. At 12:15 a.m. there was another room check by the dean to insure that all were where they were supposed to be. Any failure in this regard could result in the loss of pers for the week, a camping or even suspension from the College. Freshmen were not allowed to go home for a weekend during the first month of their arrival at the College. No student could leave the campus for a weekend or anywhere else unless there was filed in advance in the Dean's Office a letter from the student's parents clearly stating where they permitted their son or daughter to go on a weekend. Weekend permissions began after the last class of Friday (or Saturday, if the student had Saturday classes) and ended midnight on Sunday when the student was to check in personally with the dean. Students were to attend all classes, unless excused because of illness. If a student missed more than four classes of a given three-hour course, he received an “F-A”, failure because of absences for that course. As indicated, classes were also taught on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. When Saturday classes were dropped, the Tuesday and Thursday classes were lengthened to 75 minutes. All Catholic students were to attend Sunday Liturgy in the student chapel. They were also expected to attend one other designated day during the week. The weekday Mass was at 6:45 a.m. To be absent meant the loss of all “pers” for the week. Students were to keep their rooms in good order. Failure to pass a regular inspection could result in the loss of “pers.” Students could request permission to leave their rooms in the evening to go to the library or to the science labs in order to study or to do special assignments. Most of these and other rules of the College remained in effect until the early 1970s. By then, changes had occurred nationwide on college campuses. Many alumni of the College continue to think that the rules they knew while they were students here are still in effect. When they wonder why not, I've frequently told them that today's students can now do what they, the alumni, wished that they could do while they were here!

During the 1950s and 1960s great expansion took place in the physical plant of the

College. In the administration of Monsignor Kavanagh who succeeded Monsignor Riley in 1951 and who continued in that post until his untimely death in 1957, two new buildings were added to the College: the present Science Building, then built as a Science-Library Building and Borromeo Hall, named in honor of St. Charles Borromeo, the patron saint of the College. The hall was to serve as a residence for young men studying for the priesthood, or Borromeans as they were called, and as a residence for retired priests of the Diocese. The two buildings were dedicated on the 4th of November 1957, the Feast Day of St. Charles Borromeo. Traditionally that day, November 4th, was set aside at the College as a free day. Another free day in the spring was "Campus Day" when faculty and students spent the day cleaning and beautifying the campus. These two days: St. Charles Day and "Campus Day" did a great deal to build a sense of pride in the College and its campus.

Much of the present roadwork of the College was set in place during Monsignor Kavanagh's administration. It was also then that the present main entrance gates to the College were added along Benton Avenue. Eager that these should be artistically impressive, Monsignor Kavanagh commissioned the last living craftsman in the area who knew how to quarry and shape the rare native red porphyry. He would have it no other way. The entrance to the College had to be the work of an artist. There were some at the time who referred to the project as "Kavanagh's Folly!"

In 1957, 17 Hungarian students arrived at the College. They were part of the 176,000 "Freedom Fighters" who had fled their country after the failed Hungarian uprising of 1956. Initially the students of the College had a problem with the new arrivals. They did not appreciate what seemed to be a European custom: using shower room sinks for foot baths! After some frank dialogue, the problem was solved. The young Hungarian students were simply not as accustomed as Americans to shower every day. They quickly learned to adjust. One indication of how quick they were to adapt to their new situation was the speed with which they found part-time jobs so that they could buy the large second-hand cars which they delighted in owning. Every one of these students went on to graduate and entered into successful careers.

Following the death of Monsignor Kavanagh in 1957, Monsignor Raymond G. Hunthausen became president of the College. He had been chemistry professor of the College, serving at the same time first as dean of men and then as both the football and basketball coach. His teams had given additional luster to Carroll's Tradition of Champions. One of the many players, a member of the All Conference squad and captain of the 1956 football team was Mr. Guido Bugni, presently chemistry professor at the College. Before becoming Bishop of the Diocese in 1962 (and then later Archbishop of Seattle in 1979) Monsignor Hunthausen directed the construction of Guadalupe Hall, the first on-campus residence for women. It was also during his administration that Carroll Commons, as the student dining hall is called, came into being. The ground breaking for both these buildings took place in May of 1960. The work was completed by December 1961. Fittingly, before either of these buildings was begun, Monsignor Hunthausen's first addition to the College was the statue of Our Lady of the Cross in front of the College which was done in 1960. It was a counterpart to the Grotto of Our Lady of the

Immaculate Conception which students of the College had built under the direction of Mr. Ed Simonich, the football coach, and Fr. John Cronin, professor of biology. The Grotto had been officially dedicated in May of 1942.

When Monsignor Hunthausen became Bishop of the Diocese, he appointed Monsignor Anthony M. Brown to succeed him as president. The Monsignor had been Dean of Studies for the College (the title today would be Academic Dean). He was also the head of the Education Department. He had already earned the distinction of being the first candidate to complete the requirements for the newly developed Ph.D. degree in Education from the University of Montana. With student tuition constituting over 80 percent of the total annual income of the College, it was apparent that stronger effort had to be made to increase College income from other sources, especially from generous individual benefactors, from foundations or corporations, and government grants. It was through Monsignor Brown's efforts that the present Development Office of the College was set up in 1963. He directed attention as well to the need to increase the resident capacity of Guadalupe Hall. An additional wing, built in 1964-65, doubled the size of the womens' dorm. Even as this was being done, plans were underway to respond to the need for additional classrooms and for a separate administration building. Until 1966, all of the administrative offices of the College were located in the main wing of St. Charles Hall. In October of that year, on a site that had been used as a student skating rink in the winter, "Lake Bluff" as it was called, a new administration classroom building was built. The building was named O'Connell Hall after Mr. J.E. (Eddy) O'Connell, founder of the now defunct Eddy Bakery of Helena and Chairman of the Carroll College Development Council. Two other projects were also completed at that time. The basement floors of St. Charles Hall were renovated to make room for additional male residents of the College. To the basement area of the Commons (which until then was an unfinished area) a bookstore, a student cafeteria, and lounge area were added. Next, with strong support from faculty and alumni gifts as well as with the support of the Helena business community, work was begun on a new physical education building for the College. The work was well advanced when Monsignor Brown left the College to become president of St. Thomas College in Minnesota.

Clearly from 1951 to 1969 three great presidents had brought dramatic change to the College. Remarkable as these changes were in the physical plant of the College, it must be noted that great developments took place in other areas as well during those years. Beginning with Mr. William Huber, who as a student won the state oratory contest, the College forensics team went on to win more state championships than any other school in the Montana Conference. As we know, that tradition in discussion and debate is alive and well at Carroll. In music, too, the College achieved considerable fame. Carroll College student musicals, among them: "The Student Prince" and "Showboat" toured the state with great success. In the same years, an extremely talented choral group, the "Carrolleers" as they were called served as singing ambassadors of the College. They were first directed by Fr. Samuel C. Beausoleil, Dean of Men of the College, and then later by Mr. Joseph Munzenrider, now professor of the Fine Arts Department of the College.

When Monsignor Brown left the College, the work he had begun on the P.E. Building was completed in 1970 by his successor, Fr. Joseph D. Harrington, who served as president of the College from 1969 to 1974. Presently Professor of Biology, Episcopal Vicar of the College and member of the Board of Trustees, it was Fr. Harrington who in 1973 established the four-year Nursing Baccalaureate Program at the College.

Carroll's tradition of priest presidents ended in 1974 when, after a nation-wide search Dr. Francis Kerins was selected to be the first layman President of the College. Formerly from New York where he had served as college president, Dr. Kerins labored for the next 15 years to advance the cause of the College. In 1984, Carroll celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. The motto for the celebration: "75 Years of Class" stressed the remarkable development that had taken place in the College since its founding in 1909. Like his predecessors, Dr. Kerins continued the work of building the College. In 1988 the new library building was dedicated. It was named in honor of Mr. Jack Corette and his wife Sallie who were generous benefactors of the College.

Then at 4:48 in the morning on Groundhog's Day, Feb. 2, 1989, as the result of the explosion of a railroad tank car near the campus, extensive damage was done to the buildings of the College, especially to the P.E. Building, Guadalupe Hall, and the new library building. Much of the damage was due directly to the explosion. A great deal more occurred as the result of lost electrical power due to the blast. For the greater part of the day when the temperature was 28 degrees below and the wind chill factor was 70 degrees below zero, radiators froze, pipes broke, heating systems were severely damaged. This tragic development was a serious test for Dr. Kerins who at the time was in the process of ending his term as president. An article in a Carroll paper, *The Alumnus*, read: "Some people slip into retirement quietly -- Dr. Kerins retires ... with a blast." The article went on to say: "What has emerged from the disaster is a clear picture of the strong ... vital institution the College continues to be." By the 13th of February, though the three damaged buildings remained closed, classes began again at the College. Despite considerable inconvenience, the work of the College continued. With typical good humor, commemorative tee shirts produced by the students carried the picture of an exploding St. Charles dorm building with the inscription: "I Got Blasted at Carroll College -- February 2, 1989."

It was precisely at this critical time that Dr. Matthew Quinn was in the process of assuming the presidency of the College. His first major task, together with Dr. Kerins, was to oversee the repair of all the damage that the blast had done. With remarkable effort, everything was repaired during the months from February to August so that by the opening of the Fall 1989 term all was in readiness for a new academic year. This done, Dr. Quinn has been able to turn over the task of making the College even greater in the years to come.

Finally, allow me to say that this brief account of the history of Carroll College would be sadly two dimensional if it failed to pay tribute to the outstanding faculty and staff who have labored here over the years. It would be impossible to speak adequately about the dedicated men and women who have given so much to make the College what it is today.

In any event, older alumni will remember Fr. Thomas B. Killia, Dante Scholar and Professor of English and German; Fr. Alphonse J. Rooney, gifted mathematician; Fr. James W. McCormick, the historian who could and did teach every course in the History Department; Fr. Bernard J. Topel, later named Bishop of Spokane, the spiritual director for so many students at the College; Monsignor R. Vincent Kavanagh, authority in English literature and just about any other subject that needed to be taught; Monsignor John J. O'Connor whose wit and wisdom made the social teachings of the church an integral part of every student's learning at the College; Dr. Edward W. Neuman, Fr. Murray, and Dr. James J. Manion who labored to make the Pre-Med Department the nationally acclaimed one it is today; Fr. Paul B. Kirchen who for almost 60 years taught not only in the classroom but also by his tremendous outreach and concern for the poor and the outcast of the city; Dr. Thomas A. Clinch, whose lectures on the history of Montana and the Trans-Mississippi West are legendary; the Dominican Sisters who worked so selflessly; Sister Eugene Theresa of the Nursing Department; and what possibly can be said to acknowledge adequately the great contributions of Mr. Andy Peoples or Earl Zuelke who for years supervised the maintenance work of the College; or the dedicated craftsmanship of Mr. Paul Landry, a master carpenter; and Frank Sabados, the plumber of the College with no fingers who jokingly claimed he had lost them practicing too much on the piano. All of these and many more far too numerous to mention together with the students and the alumni are the true wealth of the College. There can be no doubt that God will reward them for the magnificent work they have done at the College.

As we have seen, the growth of the College since Bishop Carroll founded it in 1909 has been spectacular. From a once lonely Gothic structure on a windswept hill, it has become the beautiful College and campus that surrounds us today with a faculty, an administration, a staff, and a student body that rank high among the finest in the Pacific Northwest. Two World Wars, a great depression, a devastating earthquake, and a shattering explosion have not succeeded in stopping the excellent work that is done here. The College continues to stand as an outstanding example of the faith and vitality of the Catholic Church in Montana. As it moves toward the 21st Century, may God continue to bless and prosper this remarkable institution:

Carroll College... Floreat et Crescat: May It flourish and prosper for another hundred years. So be it!