

days return without a word of explanation. By the fall of 1891 the enrollment had increased to eighty-seven; for fifty of these the government made an allotment of funds; the other thirty-seven were cared for by the sisters.<sup>77</sup>

On March 24, 1892, a real tragedy overtook the school. A sister had taken the children for a walk; on the way some of them ate wild parsnips. Before they could be gotten home, or help brought to them two died. Three more <sup>succumbed</sup> died during the night.<sup>73</sup>

This trial was followed by another. Father Laure, S.J., who had been in charge of the Indian mission, died on December 19, 1892. The priest who was appointed by his community to replace Father Laure was not acceptable to the government officials. Hence the monthly allotment was held back until an agreement was reached. This took seven months. It was a trying time for all; the children had to be fed, the building had to be kept warm; and supplies had to be bought and paid for.<sup>78</sup>

In the spring of 1893 the government sent an inspector to examine the condition of the school, the studies taught, the meals served, and everything that pertained to the care of the Indian children. Three months later he came for a second visit, he arrived without notice and was surprised to find things in the same condition as on his previous <sup>inspection</sup> one.

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77. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 1. p.83

78. Ibid., p. 84

79. Ibid., p. 84

*He remarked, all direct quotations begin with a capital letter*

"the first time I came I thought that you had made special preparations for me but now I see that you always have things up to date-perfect."<sup>80</sup>

When school closed in June, 1896, there was no hint that the contract for the Indian School would not be renewed. The word came in July that no more help would be given to private sectarian schools by the United States Government through the Department of Interior.<sup>81</sup> Since this mission was too poor to continue to educate and care for the Indians without government aid the school had to be closed.<sup>82</sup>

After twenty-one years of unceasing struggle in the valley, Saint Joseph's Academy found itself again at the starting point. Not only must it re-commence but this time under more adverse conditions, since the school was burdened with a heavy debt and there were very few day-pupils and only three boarders.<sup>83</sup>

Sister Mary Aurelia succeeded Sister Monaldi as superior in 1889, and in turn was replaced by Sister Mary Eva in July of 1897.<sup>84</sup>

The convent was closed for the summer of 1898; the sisters went to Vancouver for their annual retreat, returning to Yakima on the twenty-fifth of August. During the summer Reverend Father Diomedi, S.J., the pastor, had been

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80. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 1. p. 93, 94  
 81. ibid., p. 95, Aurora, p. 14  
 82. ibid., p. 100  
 83. ibid., p. 110  
 84. ibid., p. 112

visiting the parishioners to find out their feeling regarding the establishment of a parochial school for the boys. Meetings were held following the principal Mass on Sundays <sup>85</sup> and after much discussion the people decided in favor of a parochial school in Saint Joseph's Parish, to care for the grade boys.

From this time on, we find in the annals the same notation for each year. "The children are not in school until the first of October." Entire families would go into the hop fields for the picking season which usually lasted until the middle of October. <sup>86</sup>

During the previous years no school Sodality of the Blessed Virgin had been formed. There were two in the parish, one for the young men and the other for the young ladies, but the school children were yet to be enrolled. The Pastor, Father Diomed, S.J., erected one for the boys and girls in the fall of 1898. <sup>87</sup> A year later Father Diomed left for Brazil where he was to spend four years in the mission field. In 1903, he returned to Yakima to supervise the construction <sup>88</sup> of the new Saint Joseph Church.

The summer of 1900 found many necessary improvements being made in the school. A sewage system was installed, and

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85. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 1. p. 115

86. Ibid., p. 122, 135, 145

87. Ibid., p. 122

88. Ibid., p. 129, 156, 161-163

two bathrooms completed<sup>89</sup> and in addition the house was equipped with electric lights. These improvements tended to make a good impression on the people, and the enrollment increased as a result. This September the records show forty-one boarders, one hundred thirty-five day pupils and thirty-eight music pupils.<sup>90</sup>

During the month of May 1900, the young girls showed their appreciation for the Sisters by devoting their afternoons to quilt-making. By the end of the month they had twenty quilts to present to the Sisters. The meetings were held in the convent and many of the girls brought their sewing machines with them. Since it was Our Lady's month, May devotions followed by a lunch which the Sisters served to the enthusiastic workers, terminated the day's charitable activities.<sup>91</sup>

Sister Mary Eva, Superior, was called in the summer of 1901 to other fields of labor. Her change was a great loss to Saint Joseph's Academy. It was due to her efforts that the school had been able to survive after the closing of the Indian school. She had come to an almost deserted building encumbered with a heavy debt. When she left, Saint Joseph's<sup>92</sup> was again on its upward course. Many of the boarders did not return because of Sister Mary Eva's departure, and the

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89. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 1. p.135

90. Ibid, p. 135

91. Ibid, p. 138

92. Ibid. p. 142



resources of the school were again reduced. But even after her leave-taking, Sister's interest in Saint Joseph's continued, and it was due to her zeal that Mr. James Cunningham of November 17, 1901, presented the Academy with a gift of \$3,000 to help pay the heavy debt. <sup>93</sup>

The parish closed the boys' parochial school in September, 1902, as the parishioners did not feel justified in paying for a male teacher since there was such a small number of boys. From now on the boys were taught by the sisters of the Academy. <sup>94</sup>

Twenty-eight years of toil, hardships, struggle, and undaunted persistent courage were finally rewarded by having the first graduation class from high school on June 19, 1903. In accordance with the wish of the pastor, Rev. Father ~~Balthasar~~ <sup>Balthasar</sup> Feusi, S.J. the "occasion was made as festive as possible." <sup>93</sup>  
*when the graduation month? It is not closed.*

For some unexplained reason the Catholics of the locality had taken very little interest in the advancement of Catholic education in the Valley. The graduation exercises gave Father Feusi <sup>Balthasar</sup> an opportunity to boast of the Academy's achievement despite the apparent indifference of the local Catholics. <sup>94</sup> Three students were graduated; "Cora Starrit, Mrs. Joseph Alcorn; Anna Heiser. Mrs. Fred Benoit; and Beatrice Navarre, Mrs. C. B. Simmons", Senator W. L. Jones, <sup>95</sup>

93. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 1.p.142

94. Ibid., p. 145

95. Ibid., p. 151

96. Ibid., p. 153

97. Alumnae Files, Saint Joseph Academy

then in the race for <sup>re-election</sup> senatorship, addressed the class. 98

The next period of five years in the life of the Academy seems to have been one of peace and quiet growth. Nothing of importance is noted in the Chronicles until September 1908, when one reads that the rooms of the school were so crowded that "many Catholic children were turned away and were obliged to attend the public school."<sup>99</sup>

Plans were started to build an addition to the school so that available space would be ready for the opening of school in September, 1909.

In January, 1909, the men of the parish held a meeting to discuss the building of the new wing of Saint Joseph's. They decided that the parish should pledge itself to bear \$10,000 of the cost of the new school building provided that it would cost no less than \$30,000.<sup>100</sup> Steps were at once taken for a drive for the necessary funds. Sister Michael of the Angels was sent from Vancouver to assist in soliciting subscriptions for the new building which was to adjoin the old one and be constructed of black rock and brick. It was to be 88 feet by 55 feet and three stories in height. The sisters hoped to occupy it in time for school in September.<sup>101</sup>

As soon as school closed in June, the interior of the

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98. Aurora, p. 15

99. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 1. p. 187

100. ibid., p. 188

101. ibid., p. 189

old building was torn out and remodeling began.<sup>102</sup> During this time the Sisters who had gone to Vancouver for their annual retreat stayed there until the middle of September. Sister Mary Alice, Superior, resided at the neary-by Saint Elizabeth Hospital to follow more closely the progress of the work.<sup>103.</sup>

School opened, September 20th, and every bit of available space was used for the classrooms,<sup>as</sup> the building was not yet completed. The dedication of the new wing took place. December 12th. The building was blessed by the Right Rev. E. J. O'Dea, Bishop of Seattle, assisted by Rev. C. Brusten, S.J. pastor of Saint Joseph's Parish, and the Rev. J. Sweens of Ellensburg. The Community was represented by Mother James Kisai, Provincial Superior, and Sister Mary James, Directress of Schools of the Sisters of Charity of Providence.<sup>104</sup>

The Knights of Columbus presented the sisters with a check of \$3,000 as a part of the parish contribution toward the paying of the debt of the new school.<sup>105</sup>

During the summer of 1912, the question of a boys school again came up for discussion. The points at issue were: should it be a parochial school in Saint Joseph's Parish and should it be for both boys and girls. After many meet-

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102. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 1. p. 189

103. Ibid. Vol. 1. p 189

104. Ibid. p. 195

105. Ibid. p. 196



ings and conferences the parishioners decided that the Parochial System should be adopted for the grade school boys and girls, leaving the high school on a tuition basis. The sisters who taught in the grade school were to receive a salary of \$25 a month. With the opening of school in September, 1912, there was an enrollment of two hundred<sup>and</sup> forty-one pupils. When the harvest season was finished the enrollment climbed to three hundred seventy-eight.

In the space of sixteen years the enrollment had increased from "afew day pupils, three boarders, and a personnel of three sisters,"<sup>106</sup> to three hundred fifty-three day pupils, thirty-eight boarders, and a personnel of thirteen<sup>107</sup> sisters.

Since such progress had been made in the development of Saint Joseph's Academy, the Pastor, Rev. Conrad Brusten, S. J. suggested to the sisters that application be made to the State Department of Education for accreditation of the school. Mr. Edwin Twitmeyer, State High School Inspector, made the necessary investigation in the fall of 1913, and approved the first three years in the High School department.

During the month of May 1914, invitations were sent to all graduates of Saint Joseph's to meet on the fourteenth of June in the Academy for the purpose of organizing an

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106. Aurora, p. 14

107. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 2, p. 7

108. Ibid., p. 1

Alumnae Association. On the designated date the assembled group made plans for the framing of a constitution and by-laws for the organization. At the close of the meeting Reverend Father Conrad Brusten, S.J. gave an inspirational talk entitled "Loyalty to One's School and Teachers."<sup>109</sup>

On November 7, 1915, the Sisters had the joy of welcoming to North Yakima one of the three foundresses of the mission in 1875, Mother Mary Melanie<sup>110</sup>, now one of the Assistants General of the Institute. Mother Mary Melanie had been delegated by the Superior General to make the official visit of the Western Provinces for that period.

Later in November, Mr. E. Twitmeyer, State High School Inspector, accompanied by Mr. Rodney Achely, County Superintendent, made a thorough inspection of the high school. He gave the assurance that a favorable report would be sent to the State Board for full accreditation.<sup>111</sup> On June 10, 1916 at the annual meeting of the State Board of Education in Olympia, Washington, Mr. Twitmeyer's report and recommendation for complete accreditation of Saint Joseph's High School were read, studied and approved. The letter bearing the news of full accreditation of the four year high school course arrived June 20, 1916. Saint Joseph Academy was now on the list of the accredited high schools of the State of

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109. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 2. p. 10

110. Ibid., p. 11

111. Ibid., p. 11



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Washington.

In 1927, Saint Joseph's Academy received full accreditation by the University of the State of Washington. Doctor Bolton, Dean of the Department of Education of the University of Washington, had visited the school the previous year and it was due to his report of the scholastic standing of the school that this added distinction was received.<sup>113</sup>

Saint Joseph's Alumnae Association held its first annual meeting June, 4, 1915, with the following elected as officers: Margaret Hamel, President; Helen Cleaver, Vice-President; Olivia Eshbach, Secretary; Elizabeth Gleason, Treasurer, and Marie McArthur, Historian.<sup>114</sup>

Since the plotting and moving of the town in 1885, the present city had been designated as North Yakima. After many meetings and discussions on the part of the City Commissioners, it was finally agreed on January 1, 1918, to change the name of North Yakima to Yakima. Henceforth, the town formerly known as Yakima City <sup>was to be</sup> called Union Gap.<sup>115</sup>

Soon after the opening of school in September 1918, an epidemic of Spanish Influenza which had been raging in many parts of the United States broke out in Yakima. It spread with such rapidity throughout the city that Dr. Smith, City Health Officer, deemed it expedient to declare a general

112. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 2, p. 13

113. Ibid., p. 14

114. Ibid., p. 11

115. Ibid., p. 25

this might better be placed to earlier discussion of Alumnae

quarantine, closing all schools, churches, and theaters. He also banned all public meetings for an indefinite period. The schools were not reopened until November thirteenth. During this enforced vacation twenty boarders remained at the Academy and there was no sickness among them as long as the quarantine was maintained.<sup>116</sup>

However, with the reopening of the schools, before a week had elapsed one of the boarders came down with scarlet fever, soon seven other children were infected. Almost immediately the dreaded influenza appeared; one by one the sisters were stricken until only two remained to nurse the sick. Sister Gertrude of Providence, Superior at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, hearing of conditions at the Academy, sent Sister Dacian, R.N. and a secular nurse to help in the emergency. Thanks to their skill and efforts all the patients recovered without any serious effects.<sup>117</sup>

From 1914 to 1925 the life at Saint Joseph's seems to have been one of quiet persevering advancement. Under the leadership of Sister Mary Veronica, Superior, another milestone in the history of the school was commemorated. It was the Golden Jubilee of Saint Joseph's Academy. After fifty years of faithful service to the youth of the Valley, the Sisters took time out to look backward and forward and to thank God for the blessings of the years. Everyone joined in

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116. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 2, p. 35

117. ibid., p. 36

in the civic celebration of the occasion. None of the little group of three who had spent "six days" making the journey from Vancouver to Yakima City, in 1875 was present.<sup>118</sup> The little school building which housed the first nine pupils was gone. The town site had been moved, and with it the school, the Indian school had been closed, and a new beginning had been made. The gradual building up of goodwill, of friendship and esteem had <sup>advanced</sup> ~~reached~~ the enrollment <sup>to</sup> of four hundred forty-nine pupils, in 1925. Such were some of the tangible blessings insured by the valiant efforts of the Founding Mothers.

The Golden Jubilee meant more than just fifty years of living in the Yakima Valley. It bespoke the fulfillment of a task well-done, the growing and spreading of the faith from seven families to an active living parish life, and a flourishing school in Saint Joseph's Parish, Yakima. It was the answer to the pleading request of Father Caruana's letters.<sup>119</sup>

Because of lack of classroom space for the growing numbers of pupils, and because of the crowded conditions in the sisters' apartments, Father Brusten, pastor, asked that more of the academy be given over to classrooms. He urged that the boarding department be closed. To compensate for

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118. Sister Blandine of the Angels died in 1922, Sister Mary Dorothea in 1911, and Mother Mary Melanie in 1922.

119. Appendix 1



this loss of income to the Sisters, the parish agreed to pay the Sisters \$10,000 a year and to keep up the repairs on the building.<sup>120</sup> This arrangement was never written formally as a contract, but it was satisfactory as long as Rev. Father Brusten was pastor. But the transaction was a poor piece of business; for during the depression of 1934, the new administration of the parish repudiated the verbal contract and guaranteed the salary of only the grade school teachers.

The high school was again forced to be put upon a tuition basis, and the sisters struggled on through years of depression.

The spacious grounds of the academy had been landscaped; tennis courts had been installed; glass trees had become a tradition; and all in all, Saint Joseph's was greatly improved both inside and out.<sup>121</sup> Gertrude Kohls of the Class of 1908, who had become a member of this community and was known as Sister Mary Theodora, had a short life of service, dying in Yakima in 1927. In memory of Sister Mary Theodora, the Kohls family erected on the grounds a beautiful shrine in honor of Our Blessed Lady. A Carrara Marble statue standing about six feet high,<sup>121</sup> imported from Italy reminds all, who enter the grounds, of Our Lady, who with Saint Joseph

120. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 2. p. 112

121. This statue was mutilated during the winter of 1948, presumably by a gang of boys as a great deal of vandalism had been done throughout the city.

to include in literature study activities



protects her children. The outdoor shrine, made of native stones, was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matthews. Mr. Matthews, himself doing all the work as a personal tribute to the Queen of Heaven.<sup>122</sup>

The feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin was chosen as the day for the dedication of the new shrine. Miss Gertrude Kohls, namesake and niece of Sister Mary Theodora, unveiled the statue in the presence of the student body. The Rev. Father Brusten, S.J. delivered the occasional address on the virtues of the Blessed Virgin and blessed the shrine.<sup>123</sup>

Just the day before school opened in 1931, Mrs. Emma Shanno Bartholet was called by the Divine Teacher to her reward. Fifty-eight years previously the little girl had been enrolled at Saint Joseph's Academy, Yakima City (Union Gap) as one of the first of nine pupils.<sup>124</sup> Her children, her grand-children, and her great-grandchildren are proud to belong to a family ~~who~~<sup>which</sup> for four generations ~~have~~<sup>has</sup> obtained an education at an institution in which their great grandmother had endured all the vicissitudes of its precarious beginnings. \* is family is the subject of "how obtained" should it not be "has"?

From now on the story of Saint Joseph's Academy is one of expansion and improvement. 1947, saw the building and

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122. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol. 2, p. 116

123. ibid., p. 119

124. ibid., p. 163



opening of a parochial grade school under the direction of the Rev. Father Paul Corkery, S.J. This was constructed on the southwest corner of the same block on which Saint Joseph Church is located. It is of pumice <sup>block</sup> tile and one story in height. <sup>school</sup> Classes convened the twenty-seventh of September, with accommodations for twelve classes, office, faculty lounge, large kitchen, and spacious gymnasium.<sup>125</sup> This arrangement eliminated the necessity of a separate school<sup>126</sup> for the boys and the girls of the parish.

In 1948, the enrollment was five hundred fifty-four. The entire academy had been given over to the high school which is taxed to its capacity in trying to accommodate two hundred twenty young ladies.

So through seventy-five years of existence Saint Joseph Academy had seen all the struggles of pioneer life; the moving and birth of a town; the gradual disappearance of the Indian, and the evolution of North Yakima to Yakima City, now the hub of commercial and cultural growth in South Central Washington.

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125. Chronicles, Saint Joseph Academy, Vol.2.p.

126. ibid., p.

St. Joseph's Mission-  
Yakima Co-Attanam-W.S.  
May 25th, 1875

Rev. Sister Praxedes, (sic) Vicaire  
Rev. Good Sister

Your welcome favor of the 9th inst. came in with last mail. Thanking you very sincerely for it. I hasten to satisfy to my duty and your wishes with these hurried lines.

I am very grateful to your charity for taking so much trouble in behalf of this Mission. I had many reasons to invite your Society, in preference of others, to take the direction of the contemplated Schools in town; but should it be impossible, or should it even oblige your community to submit to any hard sacrifice, then we have nothing else to do but have patience, and submit ourselves to the Holy Will of God, and invite some other Society to the same charitable business. Please then to let know your Reverend Mother General's answer as soon as you will have it, that we could act on immediately; because things are so advanced here, that I foresee it will be impossible any longer delay without losing this favorable occasion with these Whites. You will easily understand my present difficult position, and consequently the reason of my hurrying on a definite answer from you, by reminding the purchase of a house to be rebuilt in town on the granted land (of which I spoke in my last) with the necessary furniture for the sum of \$380.50 in coin, to be paid as soon as the house is up. Now, this money is already promised by the citizens, is true, and this for evident reasons in regard to the public esteem; on the other hand I am bound to pay the said sum of money as soon as the time fixed by the contract is at hand. Of course, it was prudent not to purchase anything before every other thing was settled before hand; but such opportunity, of purchasing the house and furniture for 90% less

than its first cost, obliged me to do what I did, because the owner could not wait for any further time, and such opportunities do not present themselves everyday. I hope the aforesaid reason will apologize for my unpoliteness in hurrying on for an answer about the acceptance or refusal of these schools.

I will try with the Bishop for his material help in our contemplated Indian School as soon as I have the opportunity, as you kindly counsel me to do.

Yes, I, too, principally wish to see the school going on among my cherished Indians, but at the same time I could not abandon the poor white children, and then Providence clearly wishes it. So you see I am of the same opinion propose in my first letter.

With regard to Re. F. Girods, the last letter I had from him was of the 22d of last month; he does not say a single word about your annual retreat. He was still at St. Ignatius Mission at the end of last month, but may be that he is gone to Helena for his annual visit. So the surest way for you will be to direct your letter to your Sisters in Missoula, they will know where he will be and besides they are on his way back to St. Ignatius or to the Flat heads.

I end, my Rev. and Good Sister in Christ, asking your pardon for so much trespassing on your time with this interminable letter, and for the hurry with which I wrote it.

Hoping to hear from you again, you will be so kind as to accept my sincere wishes and regards for you and your Community with the humble petition of the prayers of you all for my poor self, I am in great need of prayers. On my part I ask the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary to assist and Bless you all I remain in the same Sacred Hearts.

Your humble servant,

J.M. Caruanna, S. J.

P. S.

I would be a cause of extreme sorrow to me, should this letter, or any expression contained in it, offend you or your esteemed Community in the least. Almighty God know how far is from my mind and will such a thing. I only intended to give you a fair idea of the present state of things, and tell you the cause of my hurrying on a definite answer. - I repeat that I would prefer your Society, and one of the reasons is, because maybe in course of time they will have also a hospital, and your Society could do both; but if you cannot accept the care of the wished for schools, then I will be obliged to call on some other Society. I hope to hear from you soon. Pray for me as I do you all, whom I leave in the SS. Hearts of J & M.



St. Joseph's Miss--Yakima--Attanam, W.T.  
August 18th, 1875

Rev. St. Praxedes, (sic) Sup.  
P. C.

Good Sister Vicaires:

Allow me few hurried lines to present my due thanks to you, for the many charities and undeserved kindness you lavished on me while staying there, and through you to the whole Community for their patience and esteem they honored me with, to all for your prayers said and promised on my behalf, of which I had more than once evident proof in my trip homeward, and especially on the third day while ascending a steep hill, the good Brother driven could succeed to lock the wheels when the team stopped, and down it went against stones and logs out of the way, and naturally, besides smashing everything, I had to be crushed under the wagon and the driver had to break both his legs: but at this critical moment Providence stopped the team and all was saved, and with God's help we arrived here safe. Your letter to Mr. Schanno was well received, but people was somehow disappointed not seeing the Sisters with me, and therefore I will be bound to make any sacrifice to have one Father teaching in town till the Sisters will come, which however will upset my plan of having One Father wintering at the indian camp to have them prepare for the Bishop's visit. I know that you are ready to help as much as you can and I suggest to you the way of doing it by accelerating the coming of the Sisters next fall. But how? If I understood well, there will be three or four novices who could make



their Profession next month: if this is the case, why could I not go there and fetch them over next October? What would you say?

Never mind, if the two I picked up are not in the number, the choice is left to the Superior charged of them by Providence and not to me: here will be welcome whomever you will send, provided they are able to give a good start to these schools; I only take the liberty of remind you of the Superior we spoke of, if it is your pleasure to send her, which probably will save her health also, as you know as well as I do. Please let me know your mind about.

I have, moreover, to beg your pardon for having kept you too long time the last evening I left you. I was under the impression that some Sister was finishing Fr. Grassi's soutanette, and I was waiting for it. So please excuse me.

I sent from the Dalles with Mrs. Maloney the stuff for a suttanette for F. Raiberti, but there is no hurry for it before next spring. I hope that all and each of your esteemed Community are in good health, and striving onward on their way to perfection: Salute them all and tell them that with courage and patience they will arrive through God's grace, as I daily ask for them. I hope they will not forget my miserable self in their prayers. I will be thankful to for some news about them and whatever concern you and your.

Asking earnestly for your prayers, I remain as ever

Your humble servant in the S.S. Hearts of J. M.

Joseph M. Caruanna, S. J.