

HISTORICAL DATA - CLOSING OF ST. ANGELA CONVENT

Location - 1325 N. Menard - Chicago, Illinois 60651

Phone - 773-261-0448 St. Angela Parish - Archdiocese of Chicago

Convent was closed June 1, 1998 School and Church remain open

Reason for closing: St. Angela convent was built to accommodate about twenty-five Sisters. We were down to four Sisters and a dog. Shortly after Christmas two of the Sisters decided to move at the end of the Summer which would leave only two Sisters in this huge building. It was not practical financially or otherwise to retain the building as a convent.

Final Decision was made by the pastor Father Dennis Riley.

Group of Persons who will reside in the building is called the Inner-City Teaching Corps. Shortly after Easter this group was looking for a resident building. The Inner-City Teaching Corps Consists of men and women who have graduated from college and agree to give two years of free teaching to the inner city schools (somewhat like a teaching peace corps). I believe they are subsidized by a grant from or through the Archdiocese. Shortly after Easter negotiations were made for this group to use St. Angela Convent as a resident building. They wanted to move in by June 1st. These seven men and women are from different states across the country. Actually, they arrived on June 7th.

The persons who were in residence at the end were as follows:

On May 21st, the last Mass was said in the chapel followed by dinner. Father Dennis Riley, the pastor, said the Mass. On May 22nd Sr. Norene Golly and Sr. Mary Magdalen Schwartz left St. Angela - Went to South Haven Cottage for weekend and then on to Guerin High School.

May 24th - Sunday - The first grade teacher took Misty, our Black Lab.

May 25th - Monday - Sr. Ann Lucille Mortell left for Immaculate Conception Convent.

Week of May 25th, Sr. Joseph Ellen Keitzer lived in convent alone and did cleaning with the help of two young men.

May 31st. Sr. Joseph Ellen slept in New Apartment.

June 1st - Convent was officially closed.

Week of June 1st - Fr. Riley slept in convent. Sr. Joseph Ellen returned during the day to clean.

June 7th - The Inner City teaching Corps group moved into the convent.

Sister Joseph Ellen remains to continue her ministry in the parish.

Sister Joanna Valentino did not live in the convent but continues her ministry in St. Angela School.

Disposition of congregation-owned furnishings - Most of the furnishings belonged to the parish. Sr. Joseph Ellen used various congregational items to furnish her apartment which is located six blocks from the parish. Since Sr. Joseph Ellen was the only Sister living in the convent who was actively involved in the parish, and since Sister continues her ministry at St. Angela, the change of residence in the convent was a smooth transition for the parishioners.

The dedication and generosity of the young men and women, mostly in their twenties, who volunteer their services in the Inner-city Teaching Corps bring to the convent of the parish an extension of God's Providence to serve the poor. Who knows, perhaps we will have some vocations! There are four women and three men presently living in the convent building. Sr. Joseph Ellen has contact with the residents.

Please see articles enclosed for other information. If you have other questions or need further information please feel free to contact me.

May God bless you!

*Sister Joseph Ellen Keitzer*