

Catholic Institutions

The grade school system under Catholic parish auspices has flourished fairly well in all four Iowa dioceses except in certain rural districts. On the high school level, due to the greater expenses in competing with the well equipped and ably staffed and frequently consolidated public high schools, the average individual parish which strives to maintain its own parochial high school has enjoyed a more limited amount of success. Hence, a move toward centralization of these secondary schools is beginning to manifest itself. The best example of the centralized high school is the large and progressive Heelan High School of Sioux City. In recent years central high schools have been organized in Ottumwa, Burlington, Muscatine, Le Mars, Cresco, Carroll, and a few other cities. Dubuque, Davenport, and Des Moines have centralized academies for boys, while in a number of places girls are taught in convent high schools.

Iowa has two Catholic colleges primarily for men: Loras College at Dubuque, and St. Ambrose College at Davenport. There are four smaller mission colleges or seminaries conducted by religious orders of men: at Des Moines in St. Gabriel's Monastery, at Davenport the Viatorian house of

studies, at Milford the La Salette Missionary College, and at Epworth St. Paul's Mission College with not quite a hundred students. These are Iowa's Catholic women's colleges: Clarke at Dubuque, Briar Cliff at Sioux City, Marycrest at Davenport, Mount St. Clare's at Clinton, Ottumwa Heights at Ottumwa, and Mount Mercy at Cedar Rapids. The last three mentioned are junior colleges.

Of charitable and eleemosynary projects the Catholic Church of Iowa has throughout its history been extremely solicitous and today it may take justifiable pride in its record. Besides a score of orphans' homes, homes for the aged, homes for working women, babyfolds, and day nurseries, its list of general hospitals conducted by orders of nursing nuns in this agricultural state is so striking that a statistical summary by dioceses for the year 1953 will prove of interest to both the research student and the general reader:

<i>Archdiocese of Dubuque</i>		
<i>Location</i>	<i>General Hospitals</i>	<i>Patients During Year</i>
Dubuque	St. Joseph's Mercy	5,901
Dubuque	Xavier	5,745
Cedar Rapids	Mercy	10,106
Anamosa	Mercy	1,494
Cresco	St. Joseph's	1,488
Marshalltown	Mercy	2,814
Mason City	St. Joseph's	7,561
New Hampton	St. Joseph's	4,800
Oelwein	Mercy	1,767

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<i>Location</i>	<i>General Hospitals</i>	<i>Patients During Year</i>
Waterloo	St. Francis	5,485
Waverly	St. Joseph's	1,105
<i>Diocese of Davenport</i>		
Davenport	Mercy	11,578
Burlington	St. Francis	2,500
Burlington	Mercy	4,646
Centerville	St. Joseph's	5,283
Clinton	St. Joseph's	3,141
Ft. Madison	Sacred Heart	5,311
Grinnell	St. Francis	2,474
Iowa City	Mercy	6,474
Keokuk	St. Joseph's	4,300
Ottumwa	St. Joseph's	6,503
<i>Diocese of Sioux City</i>		
Sioux City	St. Joseph's	32,491
Sioux City	St. Vincent's	13,378
Algona	St. Ann	1,399
Carroll	St. Anthony	9,175
Estherville	Holy Family	3,944
Fort Dodge	St. Joseph's	5,000
Le Mars	Sacred Heart	2,410
<i>Diocese of Des Moines</i>		
Des Moines	Mercy	10,835
Corning	Holy Rosary	956
Council Bluffs	Mercy	6,713
Council Bluffs	St. Bernard's	874

In connection with these hospitals, orphanages, and other eleemosynary institutions, each diocese maintains its Bureau of Catholic Charities that directs and guides the general activities. In many parishes, the Bureau is assisted by the St. Vincent

de Paul Societies and by the Legion of Mary. Citizens of all faiths have benefited from these services, which have been rendered on a nonsectarian basis.

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