

## **Seton High School Historical Highlights**

Carrying on the legacy of education begun by Elizabeth Seton in Emmitsburg, the Sisters of Charity established Mount St. Vincent Academy in 1854. It was a day and boarding school for girls, located at their Motherhouse in East Price Hill. Just three years later the school was moved to a larger facility in West Price Hill. Known as Cedar Grove, this site was also the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity. The boarding academy was relocated to Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse in Delhi Township in 1906, but the day academy remained at Mount St. Vincent. In 1927, at the request of Archbishop John T. McNicholas, Mount St. Vincent Academy closed, and in its place Seton High School opened, part of the newly established diocesan parochial high school system.

### **Significant Dates**

- 1854 Mount St. Vincent Academy, founded and operated by the Sisters of Charity opened at their first Motherhouse, Mount Harrison on Lehman Road in East Price Hill.
- 1857 Mount St. Vincent Academy and Motherhouse moved to the Judge Alderson estate in West Price Hill. The property was dubbed “Cedar Grove” and the estate on property was called “The Cradle.”
- 1858 A five-story brick structure was erected to accommodate the needs of the Academy.
- 1874 The cornerstone was laid for the Chapel Building, later dubbed the “Glass Hall.” The chapel was located on the second floor while the first floor housed the library and classrooms.
- 1906 Resident students from Mount St. Vincent Academy, Cedar Grove transferred Mount St. Joseph Academy in Delhi Township, just west of Cincinnati. Mount St. Vincent Academy continued to operate as a day academy. Boys and girls attended the elementary school, while the high school was open only to girls.
- 1925 Plans for the reorganization of the Catholic High Schools System were initiated by Archbishop John T. McNicholas. Some of the existing academies were asked to become archdiocesan high schools.
- 1927 Mount St. Vincent closed its doors and reopened as Seton High School. Sister Louis Bertrand O’Conner was appointed the first principal of the school.
- 1931 Ground was broken and construction begun on a new building to be officially known as the Auditorium Building. It contained a gym/auditorium, science and home economics labs, and classrooms.

- 1955 Architect's plans for the "New Seton" were approved by the Sisters of Charity.  
June 29 -- Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new building were held.  
July -- The Cradle together with other structures on the property were razed to make way for the new buildings.
- 1957 October 20 -- The new structure was dedicated by Archbishop Karl J. Alter.
- 1960 A 90,000-piece mosaic mural by Sister Augusta Zimmer was erected in the front foyer of the new building. It depicted Elizabeth Seton amidst the patron saints of various branches of learning.
- 1963 An additional building known as the Freshman Building was erected to accommodate the increasing number of students in the school. It was officially named the Blessed Elizabeth Seton Classroom Building.
- 1970 Seton's and Elder's music departments initiated the Series at Eight under the direction of Sister Loretta Marie Auer and Mr. Dave Allen.
- 1977 Seton celebrated its Golden Jubilee as an archdiocesan high school.
- 1980 The Freshman Building, no longer needed for classrooms, was leased to Santa Maria Center for a child care center.
- 1983 Extensive renovation of the 1931 Auditorium Building was completed.
- 1989 A program of extensive renovation and improvements in the school, including the refurbishing of the Auditorium in the 1957 building was begun.
- 2005 A three-level parking garage was dedicated. This was the first phase of Seton's \$15 million expansion plan.
- 2006 Seton's expansion plan, which included a new gymnasium, commons area, art and science facilities, and administrative offices, was completed.