ANNUAL REPORT

MARQUETTE ACADEMY

2025-2026

HISTORY OF MARQUETTE ACADEMY
Ottawa, Illinois

The history of Marquette Academy is one of one hundred sixty four years of service to Ottawa and the surrounding area. It is the history of generosity and concern typical of those who take the gospel teachings in earnest. It is the history of those who value their right to educate their children in accordance with their beliefs.

It all began in 1859 with Dean Terry, then pastor of St. Columba Parish. It was he who invited the Sisters of Mercy to open St. Joseph's School on the corner of Paul and Washington Streets to about one hundred young boys and girls in the growing Catholic community.

In 1900, St. Joseph's school was closed and a new five-story structure was erected and opened as St. Xavier's School for girls. In order to provide a secondary education for boys in the area, Bishop Schlarman, in 1945, requested that the building be remodeled and co-education be undertaken. In September of 1946, with thirty boys registered, the school re-opened under the name of Ottawa Catholic High School. Due to rapid growth, during the years 1949-1950, a new two-story building was added to the south, which provided six new classrooms, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. The name of the school was changed to Marquette High School.

In 1990, the then 90 year old five-story structure was demolished and replaced with a new two story structure, making one large building covering the entire city block. The newest building contains twelve classrooms, 2 labs, a chapel, library and administrative offices. It was dedicated by Bishop John J. Myers on December 1, 1991. The following year, a new grotto was added on the northwest corner completing the campus.

Beginning in 2010, Bishop Daniel Jenky made sweeping changes in the structure of the catholic schools in the Peoria Diocese. In Ottawa, the two grade schools of St. Patrick and St. Columba closed and were merged and consolidated with the high school. The new entity, a Pre-K through grade 12 school, was re-named **Marquette Academy** and is a part of the Ottawa Catholic Community. The current Academy consists of two campuses with one administration. The grade school, PreK-8, is housed in the old St. Columba grade school building on Washington St. Two blocks down the street, the high school, grades 9-12, remains in its original location on the corner of Paul and Washington Streets.

With the experience of these years, Marquette is a blend of the old and the new with the vitality of generations of Crusaders whose cry will always be:

"WE ARE MARQUETTE"

Official Logo of Marquette Academy
(Unveiled on February 5, 2010)

The Circle

A dark blue circle with the words 'MARQUETTE ACADEMY' in white on the upper half and 'Catholic Education Since 1859' in white on the lower half is the main symbol of unity for the Catholic parishes who belong to the Marquette Academy family. With regard to the name, it is justly chosen as there are 16 letters in the name of Marquette Academy and 16 parishes and missions who are a part of the Academy's service area. Between the words are two small Jerusalem crosses, one on the right and one on the left. The Bible, the foundation of our faith, includes the Old and New Testament. Fittingly, these crosses are reminders of our Catholic educational purpose. They symbolically support the words Marquette Academy, just as the Catholic community will do with the school.

There are three gold rings that surround the dark blue circle. The two closest to the blue circle, one on the inside and one on the outside, serve as reminders of God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The third ring of gold, often seen last, and possibly the most important, completely encompasses all aspects of the Academy and student and is symbolic of God the Father.

The Shield

The shield is a heather style shield similar to those carried by the Crusaders of the Middle Ages. The cross on the front of the shield, a Jerusalem cross, is the same style cross which adorned the Crusaders' shields. The cross has the French fleur-de-lis at each of its four points. The fleur-de-lis used here has many important meanings both to our Catholic faith and to us locally. The words translate from French as "lily flower". In the early church it was often seen as a symbol of Mary, as she was referred to in the Song of Solomon as the "lily among thorns". This symbol was again used in 14th century France as a religious symbol representing the Holy Trinity, as well as virtues of faith, wisdom and chivalry. One can see the direct connection between our Academy and these virtues as well; our Catholic faith, wisdom from education and chivalry in service to our neighbors and community. The fleur-de-lis' use and symbolism has expanded locally as the basis of the logo of the Boy Scouts of America, whose founder W.D. Boyce was from Ottawa. Additionally, in the Academy's home city of Ottawa, the fleur-de-lis is the center point of its city flag. It represents the heritage and pays homage to the early French explorers. It was Fr. Jacques Marquette and his fellow explorer Louis Joliet who helped to bring the Catholic faith to this area. Thus, it is fitting that we pay respect to this early Catholic missionary and priest with the naming of our new school: Marquette Academy.

MARQUETTE SOCIETY ANNUAL GIFT FUND APPEAL
10/15/25 TO 6/30/26
($91,377.00)

The *Marquette Society* was formed in the fall of 2003. The following Clubs were established, and donors were invited to join the Society to become a member of one of the Clubs. Over the years, many have climbed the ladder and many more have joined the society. There are presently approximately 300 members in the Marquette Society.

Time and time again, Marquette has been blessed with alumni, parents and friends who realize that the advancement of the school depends not only on the vision of the current administration, but also on those benefactors who provide consistent annual support. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

<u>1000 Paul Street Club</u> ($10,000 and over)

Marquette has changed thousands of lives over its 164 year history. The first structure was a frame building situated at the corner of Washington and Paul Streets in Ottawa, Il. The historic address is used to name this level to recognize those farsighted individuals who have committed to the vision of Marquette into the future.

Mrs. Mary Crowley *Knights of Columbus-Ottawa*

<u>Shield Club</u> ($5,000-$9,999)

Three outstanding virtues of a Christian Crusader are symbolized in the traditional crusader shield; the drawn sword for courage and fortitude, St. Joseph's staff for purity and family dedication and the lighted lamp for wisdom and knowledge. Finally, the cross is the symbol of our faith.

Mrs. Sandy Burns

<u>Victory Club</u> ($2,500-$4,999)

This level is a nod to the success of those students who have struggled and succeeded against odds or difficulties in the classroom, on the playing field, in an extracurricular program, or in their personal lives.

Mr. Scott Anderson *Mrs. Doris Jessen* *Mrs. Marilyn Ohlwine*

<u>Principals Club</u> ($1,000-$2,499)

Since 1859, the Principal has been the educational and spiritual leader of our school. This club is dedicated to the alumni and friends who have mirrored this leadership in their Christian lives. Members are acknowledged for advancing the educational opportunities at Marquette.

Mr. Dennis Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. David Barsi
Mrs. Joan Bernabei
Mrs. Joyce Buck
Dr. Dennis Corcoran
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Crowley
Mr. Thomas Danaher
Msgr. Philip Halfacre
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Frank McCallum
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Reynolds
McDonald's of Ottawa & Utica

<u>Sisters of Mercy Club</u> ($750-$999)

"…the matter being duly discussed is finally and unanimously agreed upon-that a colony of five should go upon said mission. The Rev. Mr. Terry with the consent of the Bishop of Peoria preparing to make ample provisions for the Sisters until such a time as the revenue arising from the school would be adequate to support them." (Words of Sister Xavier, Superior-August 18, 1859.)

None

Ambassadors Club ($500-$749)
We are all ambassadors of Christ. We honor these donors for the investment they have chosen to make that secures Marquette Academy High School's place in the forefront of secondary education.

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Bottarini
Mrs. Peg Breslin
Denise & Earl Ecklund
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Mr. James Fewell
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Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Rooney
Ms. Joyce Talty

Crusaders Club ($250-$499)
Crusaders zealously strove to win the Holy Land from the Muslims in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. The Academy's Knights and Crusaders continue to strive to learn and practice the Christian values and principles for which our ancestors fought.

Mr. Richard Armstrong
Mrs. Andrea Barker
Mr. Richard Burke
Mr. Zachary Carusona
Ms. Susan Christensen
Mrs. Sharon Christy
Mr. & Mrs. James Conness
Mr. Michael Cully
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Garland
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Mr. & Mrs. Ron Paquette
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Pumo
Mrs. Joan Resendiz
Mr. Ryan Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schneider
Mr. Robert Sebby
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Slingby
Mrs. Joan Wicks

Gold Club ($100-$249)
"For the Blue and Gold will always stand, and the laurels that we gain will remain." The lives our students lead after graduation is the true measure of our success. Contributors to the Gold Club insure the continuance of our traditions. Traditions are embraced, dedication is the norm, and excellence is the expectation.

Mr. Paul Aubry
Mr. Vincent Baker
Mr. Daniel Bault
Mr. Timothy Bault
Mr. & Mrs. James Brown
Edward & Kay Burton
Mr. Timothy Chalkey
Mr. John Chivatero
Mrs. Elizabeth Christison
Ms. Ruby Clairmont
Mrs. Laurie Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Corcoran
Mrs. Kathleen Corso
Mrs. Andrea Craig
Mrs. Patricia Crum
Mrs. Barb Davey
Ms. Barb Doherty
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Mrs. Nadine Vicich

<u>Dukes Club</u> ($1-$99)
A Duke was a leader in battle. Members of the Dukes Club are recognized for their commitment to the education of young people to be leaders, confident of the future because of the education they have acquired at Marquette.

Mr. Timothy Arbet
Ms. Janet Cappellini
Ms. Marie Dooley
Mr. William Farrell
Mrs. Julie Maier
Mr. Frances O'Brien
Mrs. Jo Anne Scutt
Mrs. Shirely Towers
Mrs. Jannette Bartels
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The placement on the wall is determined by cumulative lifetime giving

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