

Theology for Sisters

Providence College Summer School of Sacred Theology for Sisters



OUR CREDO

In 1948, the Dominican Fathers at Providence College inaugurated a Summer School of Sacred Theology for Sisters. This school was founded because we sincerely believe that Sisters should receive a sound theological training, i.e., a deeper and more comprehensive course of study than that given in college or in novitiate courses in religion. We are convinced that study of the sacred sciences not only enriches the spiritual lives of the Sisters but also prepares them to direct the spiritual formation of others. The study of Theology is especially beneficial to those Sisters who are engaged in the education of youth. Since the duty of teaching religion has been delegated almost exclusively to the Sisters, it is imperative that they receive instruction in the sacred sciences. Our *credo*, in the words of Saint Thomas Aquinas, is that those persons "whose business it is to teach others, have an obligation to acquire a fuller knowledge of the matters of faith" (II-II, q. 2, a.6). The Providence College Summer School of Sacred Theology was established to impart this knowledge at a minimum of expense to the Community.



The spiritual life is
nourished by the study
of Theology.



A comprehensive course in theological studies is especially beneficial to Sisters engaged in the education of youth.

The study of the sacred sciences is an excellent preparation for those Sisters who are entrusted with the spiritual formation of novices.



The Professors, the Pupils . . .



The Dominicans have a seven-hundred-year-old heritage in the teaching of Theology. Today, as in the past, they lecture in colleges and universities throughout the world. In the United States, there are over one hundred Dominicans engaged in the teaching of Theology to college students. The Summer School of Sacred Theology for Sisters is a special apostolate. There are twenty Dominican Fathers engaged in this educational mission. Each is an expert in his respective field and has been chosen for his teaching ability.

and the Program

The Summer School pupils are Sisters from all over the United States and Canada; they represent many different communities. Among our students are mistresses of novices, community supervisors, superiors, and Sisters preparing for the foreign missions. Most of the Sisters, however, are engaged in the education of youth on the elementary, secondary, and college levels.

The basic three-year course is open to all Sisters. There are no educational pre-requisites. In this program, the Sisters study Dogmatic and Moral Theology, Sacred Scripture, Canon Law, and Ecclesiastical History. The *Summa Theologica* of Saint Thomas Aquinas is the textbook used in the Theology classes. More than five hundred Sisters have graduated from this course and received a Certificate in Theological Studies. These Sisters have returned to their convents spiritually enriched and, consequently, more useful members of their respective communities.

For qualified students, there is also a graduate program leading to the degrees of Master of Arts in Religious Education or Master of Arts in Religious Guidance. The requirements for admission to this program are the satisfactory completion of the basic course of studies and a bachelor's degree from a recognized college. Candidates for the Master's degree study Theology and Sacred Scripture for two additional years, during which time they also complete a dissertation and pass a comprehensive oral examination. Since the inception of the school, nearly two hundred Master's degrees have been granted.



THE CAMPUS

The Sisters of the Summer School of Sacred Theology have facilities and its beautiful seventy-five acre campus — the lounge, the Grotto, and the grounds. In fact, much of the campus is located under the numerous shade trees. Moreover, the Sisters enjoy the advantages of a Motherhouse including two daily Masses.



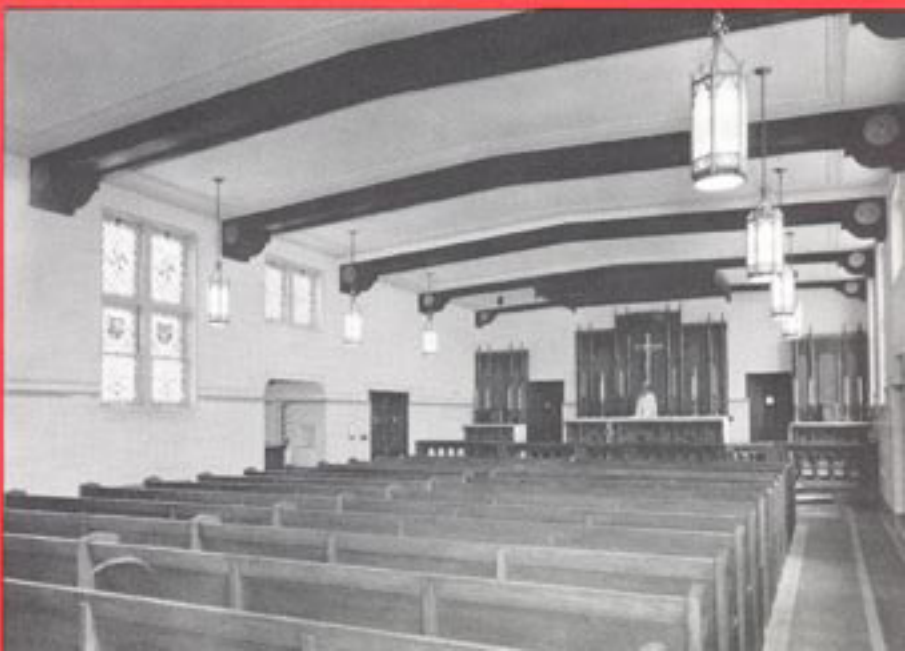
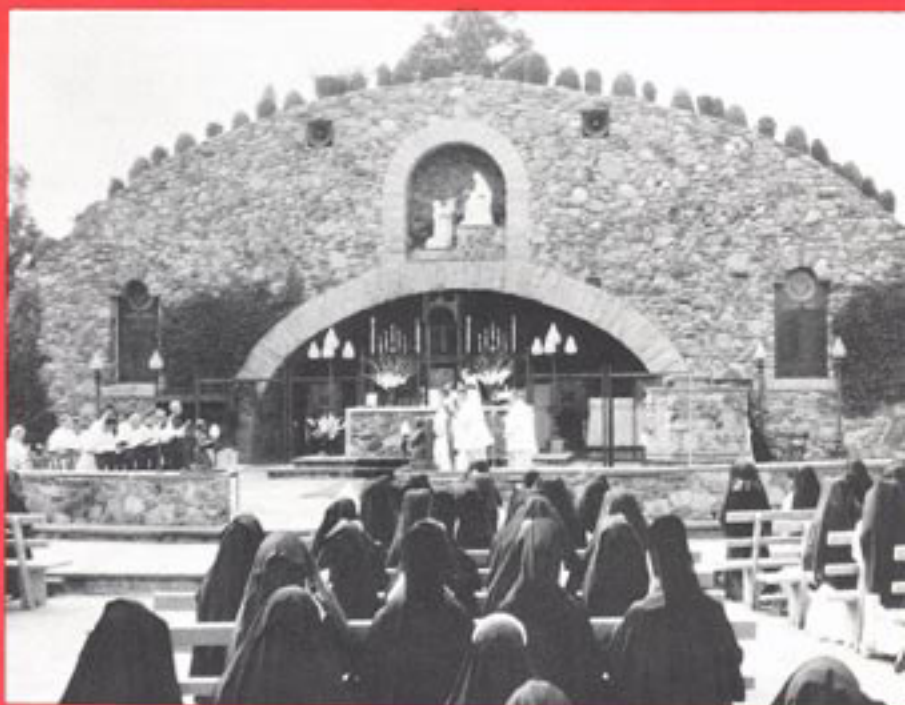
Above The tree-shaded study hall.

Right Aquinas Hall: Sisters' residence, recreation lounge, and Chapel.

Below A study in black and white; recreation in the lounge of Aquinas Hall.



ve the exclusive use of the college
e classrooms, the library, the Chapel,
f the studying is done on the benches
Sisters enjoy all the spiritual
es, meditation, and Rosary in common.



Top right Raymond Hall: Sisters' residence and
air-conditioned dining hall.

Center Right Solemn Masses are celebrated at
the beautiful Grotto of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Bottom Right The Chapel of Aquinas Hall where
all the spiritual exercises are held.

UNIQUENESS

One of the principal assets of the Summer School of Sacred Theology is its *uniqueness*. There is no other theological institute quite like it. At Providence College, Sisters from many communities live together in the comfortable quarters of Aquinas Hall and Raymond Hall. They become acquainted with members of other communities, learn of religious customs and practices other than their own, and exchange educational experiences. The Sisters live the common life while remaining faithful to their own community devotions and practices. In this unique summer community there is truly a unity amid diversity.



AND SPIRIT

Moreover, a very distinctive spirit pervades the campus during the summer session. It is something that is difficult to express in words but which may be described as a spirit of charity and joy resulting from intellectual stimulation and spiritual renaissance in a relaxed atmosphere.



THE SISTERS SPEAK



From time to time we receive letters from our students, our graduates, and their major superiors. These unsolicited declarations attest to the fact that the Providence College Summer School of Sacred Theology for Sisters achieves its objectives, namely: (a) to enrich the spiritual lives of the Sisters; (b) to prepare them to direct the spiritual formation of others; and (c) to instruct teachers in the fundamentals of the sacred sciences. Moreover, these writers are especially impressed by the spirit of peace and joy that results from intellectual stimulation in a relaxed atmosphere. In the following excerpts, the Sisters speak.

"I wish to express my gratitude for the wonderful work you Dominican Fathers are doing in offering this course in Theology for the teaching Sisters. What was given us in class with such lucidity — due to the background and to thorough preparation on the part of our professors — is something to influence a lifetime. But what 'overflowed' from the religious life of the professors — an intonation or an aside that threw such profound light — shows that we are getting something whose value cannot be expressed."

A Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame



"The Sisters who studied at Providence College have profited greatly from their courses. . . They liked the spiritual atmosphere, the courses, the cordial hospitality, and the beautiful surroundings."

A Mother General of the Religious Sisters of Mercy



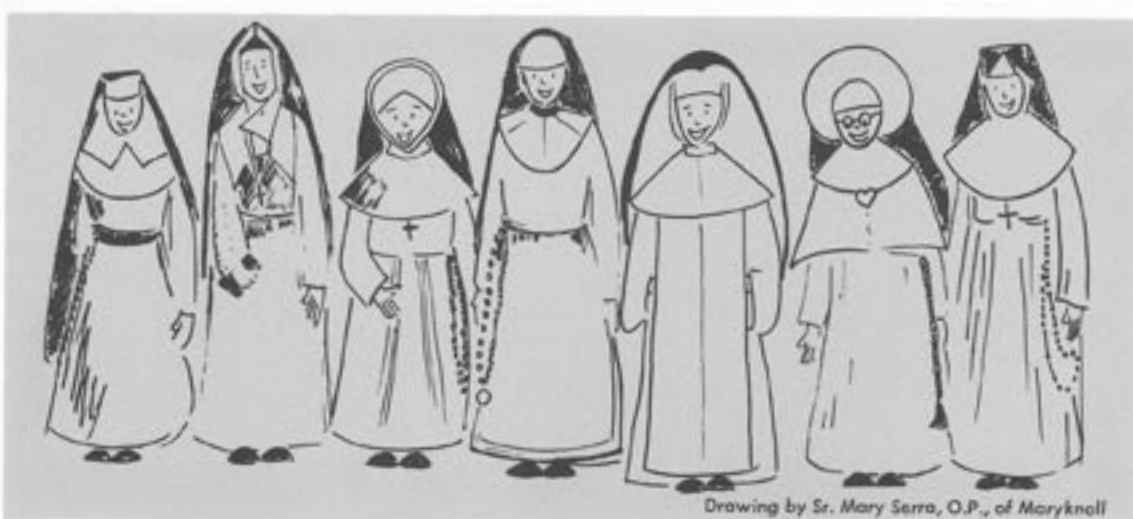
"The Fathers are such competent masters, edifying priests and religious that the joy and peace which reigns on the campus is of your making."

A Sister of Notre Dame de Namur



"The three summers I was privileged to spend in Providence College are of great value in my spiritual life and in my work with students. Perhaps the most noteworthy thing about Providence is that the teachings of its priest-professors are so evidently an overflow of their life of contemplation. It is for this that we are most grateful."

A Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



"I assure you of my joy at the prospect of another stimulating year under the guidance of the Dominican Fathers. . . . We, the teaching Sisters are very fortunate in having such a splendid program of theological studies offered to us by outstanding religious professors. I consider the theology course one of the great graces of my religious life."
A Sister of Saint Anne



"I wish to express my appreciation for all the good that the Dominican Fathers are doing through these Theology Courses to enrich the minds of the teachers and to fire their hearts with a greater love for God and zeal for souls."
A Provincial of the Congregation of Saint Joseph



"The nuns speak so beautifully of the kindness extended to them, the excellent courses, and the spiritual atmosphere of your campus. We are deeply grateful to the Dominican Fathers. Your reward will certainly be the blessing of God on your work. Surely our nuns will be better religious for having been at Providence, as well as better teachers of religion."
A Provincial of the Order of Saint Ursula



"I have no doubt that, far from growing dim, the vistas opened for us at Providence College will grow even richer in retrospect. Other schools may probe the same sublime truths, yet here in the setting of an atmosphere unique to Providence College, their beauty is enhanced."
A Dominican Sister



We invite the members of every religious community to participate in this program of Theology for Sisters. For further information and a Catalogue write:

**The Director
 Summer School of Sacred Theology for Sisters
 Providence College
 Providence 8, R. I.**

