

## Newton newsnotes.

Newton, Mass. : Newton College

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Left: Mother Keyes, Junior Weekend, 1953. Below: Winnie Weber '55, social committee chairman, and Carol Morgan '55, president of the Children of Mary.



the fourth commencement of the College he had helped to found; a year later, in April, 1954, ground was broken for the rear wing of Stuart. August 31 saw Hurricane Carol fell nearly 100 trees on campus; in December, after eight years of existence, the College was finally accredited on its own.

In 1955 Stuart House was completed and Cushing House, a new dormitory, was constructed in time for the fall school year opening.

The College's first decade concluded with Mother Kenny's resignation in July, 1956; as the College's first president she had seen the dream become a reality.

The dream first began in the fall of 1944 when Boston Bishop Richard Cushing suggested to Mother Eleanor Kenny, then superior of the Newton Country Day School, that the Society of the Sacred Heart might be interested in starting a college, one he envisioned as a Catholic Radcliffe, on the nearby Schrafft estate. He suspected that the property might be for sale at a reasonable price, and told Mother Kenny: "You can't refuse it; it's the finest site on the East Coast!"

Just one year later, in September, 1945, purchase of the Schrafft estate was concluded. The 20-acre

property included a Georgian colonial residence which later became Barat House, named in honor of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, the Society's founder, and its companion garage (then located at the point on the circle where the Chapel stands now) which was rechristened as St. Mary's Hall, in memory of the monastery at Grenoble connected with Phillipine Duchesne.

In February, 1946, after some lengthy thought, discussion, and correspondence, the 18-acre Harri-man estate (which separated the Country Day School campus and the Schrafft property) was pur-

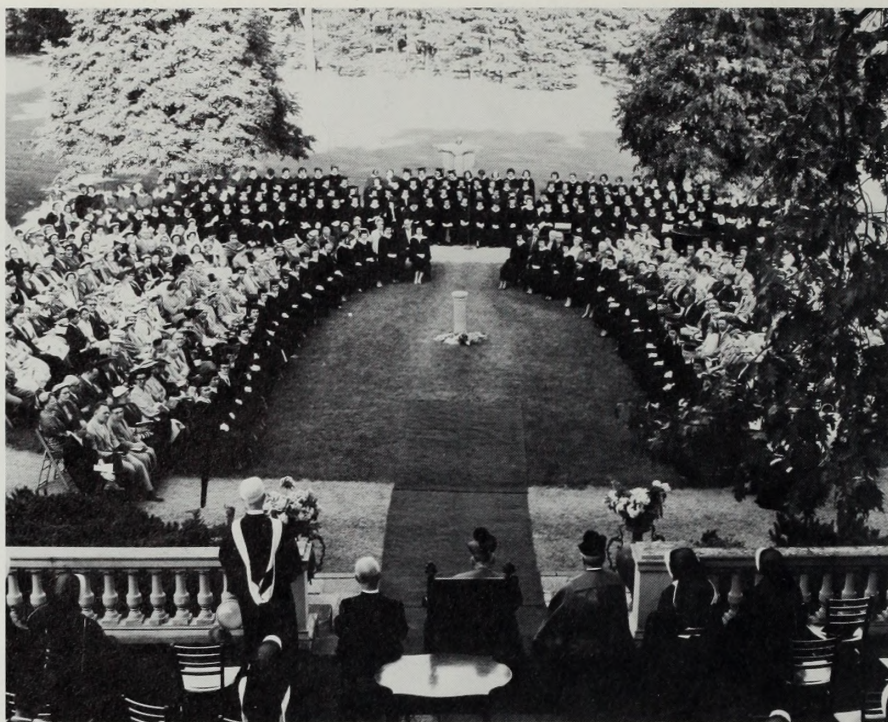


**"Drawn together for four years we were at home here. We formed an outside family with a common goal: to take from Newton what she has to give and will never lose, and, like her, to grow by giving."**

**—Class of 1959**



Middle left: *Wheat and Cockle* staff, 1954; Lee McGrady '55, Joan David '57, Ann Sperry '55, Evie Melloon '56, Mary Winslow '57, Janice Murphy '56. Lower left: Mary Englert, Claire DeBlois, Anne Devereux, Jane Gallagher, and Elena Ruggiero at senior class beach party, Cranes Beach, 1950. Top right: arriving freshmen in the fall of 1953; Lacey Kelly, Jobie Medart, Anne Marie Cantwell, Ann Labadie. Bottom right: Mary Englert and Chic LaBonte, class of 1950.



This page, middle left: lily procession, 1954; middle right: Glee Club's *Hansel and Gretel*, 1952. Opposite page, top right: hazing, 1952; middle left: *She Stoops to Conquer*, 1955; middle right: torchlight ceremony, 1951; bottom right: tree planting, 1955.

chased. Under the terms of the sale the Harrimans would continue to live on and make use of the property until they chose to vacate it, and it was not until 1950 that the burgeoning College acquired actual possession.

On March 19, the corporation papers for the proposed Newton College of the Sacred Heart were signed, with the incorporators, all members of the Society, as the first Board of Trustees: Mothers Gertrude Bodkin, Eleanor Kenny, Ursula Benziger, Elizabeth Cavanaugh, Alice Egan, Ellen Green, and Elizabeth Sweeney. Priests and lay persons interested in the College were given positions on the Advisory Board, with Bishop (later Cardinal) Cushing serving in this capacity from 1946 until 1970; another prominent member was John F. Kennedy who was an advisory board member for nine years.

On September 23, 1946 the College opened its doors to a freshman class of thirty-five students. St. Mary's, the converted garage, provided science labs and classrooms; Barat served as administration building, library, chapel, and residence hall. Tuition, room, and board in that first year totaled \$1300! Mother Kenny served as president, Mother Green as dean,

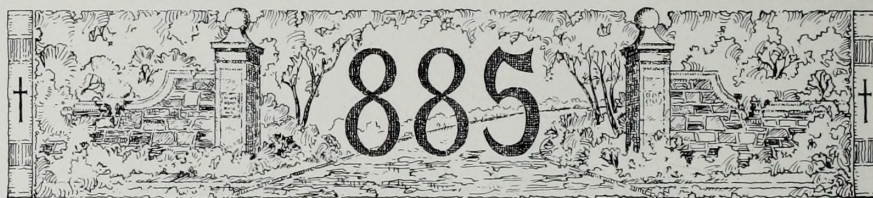
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Mother Louise Keyes as warden, and Mother Sweeney as treasurer, a position which she was to hold for seventeen years. As is customary with new colleges, Newton was not at first formally accredited, but was affiliated with the Catholic University of America.

In their yearbook, the class of 1950 recalled: "We were a motley crew . . . . There was every species of Proper Bostonian, the correct leavening of improper New York-



ers, a Mexican, a Colombian, and one rebel — but she slept most of that year. There were both wise and foolish virgins; but we all soon learned that oil or no oil, the supply was cut off at ten . . . . This was the year of the cold smoker, the mysterious fire alarm . . . . The first housewarming when the bathtub overflowed . . . . the first Tea Dance when Mother Keyes asked a shocked young gentleman to dance."

This page, upper left: Mother Quinlan with Mary Quirk '58, Gail O'Donnell '56, and Winnie Weber '55; center left: volunteer work, 1954; center right: Junior Weekend, 1955; bottom left: Joan Baxter '54 and Anny Sperry '55, first and second editors of 885. Opposite page, far right: Archbishop Cushing and Mother Husson, Duchesne opening.