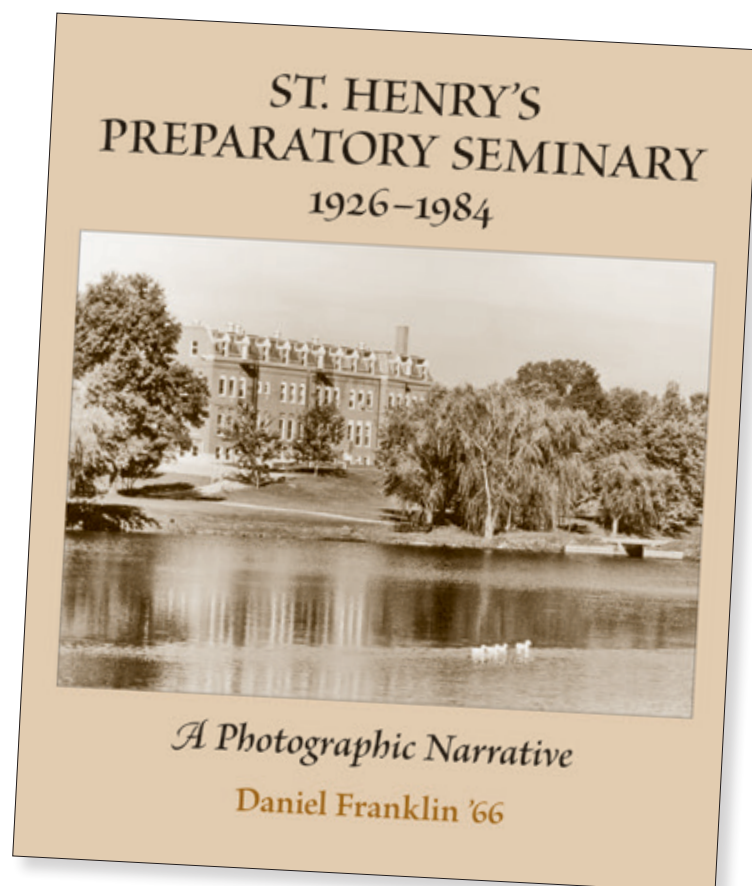


Announcing
The history of St. Henry's
in a deluxe edition
of 400 photographs

From the Preface

One photograph records a moment in time. Four hundred photographs tell a story. Individually, they are freeze frames of institutional life, of students' transitions from adolescence to manhood. Collectively, they chronicle the crucible that was St. Henry's Preparatory Seminary: its spirit, its culture and traditions, its *truths*....

In these pages, I celebrate St. Henry's and its sons: the real and imagined hardships we suffered shoulder to shoulder, the goals we accomplished side by side, the brotherhood we shared and cherish.



- 10 inches x 12 inches
- 192 pages
- 400 photographs, printed in sepia
- Composed in the Briosio and Cronos type families
- Printed on 100-lb. Sappi Flo matte text and hardbound in blue cloth, with dust jacket, by Thomson-Shore, an employee-owned company

\$50.00 (free shipping)

VILLAGE
PUBLISHERS

The book divides St. Henry's history into four eras: *Pioneers* (1926–1940), *Builders* (1940–1955), *Boomers* (1955–1965), and *Prepsters* (1965–1984). Each era is introduced by a brief essay.

Pioneers

1926–1940

On August 31, 1923, two Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate traveled from St. Louis to Belleville by streetcar. Fr. Joseph Pothmann later recounted that he and Fr. Max Kassiepe told Bishop Henry Althoff, “We’re looking for a place to establish our order,” to which the bishop replied, “I’m looking for just such priests.” The bishop drove his visitors to a wooded 54-acre site with buildings, four miles west of the city square. There and then, he offered them the property known as Priester’s Park.

If there was prophecy in the name, enormous tasks lay ahead. The Oblates would need to renovate and furnish the mission house (the original Priester’s Hotel); organize and preach missions and retreats; minister to St. Henry’s parish; and establish a “seminary college for boys,” serving both the Oblates and the diocese.

The small band of Oblates set to work. They attained status as a vice-province on December 8, 1924, and Fr. Pothmann was appointed provincial. Bishop Althoff dedicated the mission house in May 1925, and a substantial addition—“the college building”—was undertaken early the following year.

When St. Henry’s first 14 students arrived in October 1926, the brickwork on the addition hadn’t reached the second floor and the new furnace hadn’t been installed. In fact, not all faculty members had arrived, and substitutes taught the first two weeks of classes. The college addition was finally ready for occupation in January 1927.

The student body doubled by the second scholastic year, and St. Henry’s College soon acquired the accoutrements of a bona fide school: By 1930, it possessed a literary society, a brass band, an extramural baseball team, and a student newspaper.

Through the ensuing decade of the Great Depression, the Oblates—with faith in themselves and their mission, crucially supplemented by ingenuity and good fortune—were able to establish a seminary that would be a home, bookish and spirited and full of purpose, for more than 2,800 young men over six decades.

These sample pages are shown at 75% of original size. The text is composed in type of **this size** (when the PDF is viewed or printed at 100%).



The intramural football league teams in 1943 were named for the armed forces (Navy, Marines, Air Corps, Tank Busters, and Infantry), and the softball leagues were named for cigar brands (El Roi Tan, Dutch Masters, El Macco, and White Owl). Intramural basketball teams were named Sky Pilots, Bells, Caissons, Red Devils, Generals, and Angels.

Over the next decade, the most popular sports were these three, plus baseball and tennis, but there were other favorites: handball, volleyball, ping-pong, table pool, fishing, and even pole vaulting.



Major themes are religious life (16 pages), academics (25 pages), manual labor/workdays (31 pages), recreation (35 pages), sports (24 pages), and plays and programs (26 pages).



Collegians engage in earnest discussion in their study hall in St. Mary's Hall, January 1945.

Freshmen apply themselves in their study hall on the second floor of the A Building, Autumn 1944.



With each succeeding era, the sepia effect is reduced.



Opportunities to improve public speaking ability multiplied in the early 1960s. With the addition of eight speech rooms in the dormitory auditorium, students could listen to and improve on recordings of their Better Speech Club rehearsals. Above left, Roscoe Lindsey helps Jim Waymire prepare for his Saturday night speech.

Vatican II changes to the Mass provided new opportunities for students as commentators and lectors. Above right, John Judd serves as Mass commentator in 1963.

Beginning in Autumn 1962, older students participated in the Gabriel Richard Institute, a two-month course that fostered positive attitudes and honed public speaking skills. Below, collegians Tom Siebert, Ralph Kuberski, Tom Pautler, and Pat Quain lead a warmup chant at the beginning of a Gabriel Richard class.

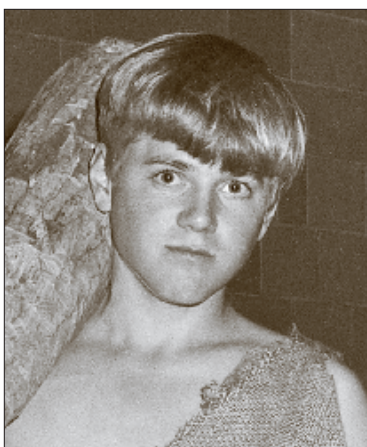


The first two eras are presented chronologically; the last two, thematically.



The Halloween costume parade was a decades-long tradition at St. Henry's.

Above, faculty judges react to the costumes on October 31, 1965: Frs. Terry Donovan, Joe Svobodny, John Pilaczynski, Tom Madeja, and John Altier.



Clockwise from top left, Marv Iffert in 1967, Jim Droste in 1969, Tim Millar in 1983, and Jude Richard and Steve Wilson in 1978.

Many hundreds of St. Henry's students appear in the book.



The 1977 school play, *Billy Budd*, was presented on April 2 and 3. Directors Frs. Allen Maes and Tom Meyer expanded the cast from 24 to 29 parts so that all tryouts would get a role. More than half the students were involved in the production, which featured one of the most elaborate sets in St. Henry's history. The morality play based on Herman Melville's novel sets an innocent crewman against an evil officer, and then against the intransigence of British maritime law.



Fr. Allen Maes produced and directed several exotic plays in the late 1970s, among them the musicals *Philemon* (the 1976 school play) and *Pacific Overtures* (the 1979 school play). He also directed *Rashomon*, presented at Senior Entertainment Night on November 20, 1977 (at left). The play revolves around four conflicting accounts of a samurai's murder.

Below, Ben Fieser sews a costume for *Philemon*.



There are two ways to order copies of Daniel Franklin's *St. Henry's Preparatory Seminary, 1926–1984: A Photographic Narrative*:

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