

Cluny School (Continued)



Annual play preparation with Sister Laetitia

say that there was shock, dismay, and sadness that greeted this announcement would be a bit of an understatement. Nevertheless, with the diminishing numbers of students, and the increasing costs of education and technology, it was inevitable.

We were blessed for sixty years to have so many dedicated and wonderful teachers who remained with us often at their own personal sacrifice. We had the vision of Sister Angela Schartz, who began Cluny 'on a shoestring and prayer' and encouraged us along the way, as did the succeeding Provincials. We had so many of the military families who never stinted on their service and support, whether here for three years or three months. We had great encouragement from our local community and most of all we had the love and appreciation of so very many parents who trusted their very special children to us, and special they were!

As the number of applicants increased so did our need for space and the "little school," as we called it, was added on to the Kindergarten building. Then we had to raise money for a larger addition and find ways to house more pupils as we added grades. Not too many students had the opportunity to finish their education in the rooms above the "carriage house" of the James Estate, or do their math on Father Maguire's kitchen table, but they were delighted to be different. The new addition took a while to pay off, and we were helped by the sacrifices other sisters of the province made to pay off the debt. The card parties and bingos from our Philadelphia sisters, the gifts, sale of their handmade Aran knits, and donations from the sisters in Providence, Hamilton and California added up little



Photos: Courtesy of Cluny School

Peace Celebration

by little and we were grateful. Still, we had to face the fact that bigger fund raisers were needed. And thus was born....CLUNY FAIR.

How many goldfish gave their lives? How many corks were painted? And how many tired, weary parents left our field at the end of the day having given their all to make it a success. Cluny Fair grew in size and changed in keeping with the times, but it was always a great day for those involved. It was a great family day for people from all over Aquidneck Island.

First Communion, the May Procession, Family Mass, golf tournament, annual play, the science fair, choir, art classes, sports — there were so many avenues to help a child realize his or her gifts and potential. Academic success was important, and standards were high, but most of all we asked each child to be the "best he or she could be" ... after all, isn't that what God asks of each of us?

There are so very many memories of Cluny that cannot be written down, or this newsletter would never end. Now that the closing has passed and time has worked its process of easing some of the loss, as Cluny Sisters we want to say, "Thank you" with all our heart to each of you who were ever a part of Cluny. The faces of the children that pass through our minds will remind us always of the beauty of children and we are grateful to have taught them. We are proud of them and they will always be in our prayers. As the saying goes, "Once a Cluny, always a Cluny." And in the words of Scripture, "I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever, there is no adding to it, or taking from it." (Eccl 3:14) Cluny lives on in our hearts.