INSTITUTE HISTORY WORKSHEET

TOPIC: Sister Superior Julia Part 2 – 1885-1901

Places:

Foundations:
- Waltham, MA 1888 (Pond Street)
- Arlington, MA 1888
- Waltham, MA 1889 (Newton Street)
- Summit, East Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, OH 1890
- Providence, Rhode Island 1891
- Loretto, Illinois 1892
- Peabody, MA 1893 (& death in 1901)
- South Boston 1895
- Odell, Illinois 1895
- Lancaster, PA 1898
- Brookline, MA & Watsonville, CA 1899
- Worcester, MA 1900 (Notre Dame du Lac)
- Washington DC 1897-1900 (Trinity College)

Dates & Events:

1885: September 16 – begins role as Louise’s assistant
1887-1901: serves as superior of Sisters in America (whole country from 1892 to April 1901)
1889: Julie declared venerable
1890: Golden Jubilee of arrival of SNDdeN in US (887 Sisters of Notre Dame in the U.S. in 30 houses)
1890: Summit opens
1892: visitation of California
1897-1900: project to open Trinity College
1901: Died November 12 at Peabody (there for the Visitation), November 18 funeral Mass & burial at the Summit

People & Relationships between them:

- **Mère Aloysie**: becomes mother general in late 1875 and serves into 1888 – and it is a smooth & supportive relationship on both sides
- **Mère Aimée de Jésus**: becomes mother general in 1888 - peers in lots of ways; relationship has huge ups and downs especially around Trinity College
- **Sr. Mary Nepomucene**: born and raised in Old St. Mary’s parish in Over-the-Rhine and taught by our Sisters between 1846-1850, she entered in 1856 she was the go-to construction project manager for Louise and Julia! (Dayton, Columbus, Hamilton, Summit, Waltham, Trinity, Mt. Notre Dame). Described as “diminutive”, she was a strong woman who had no problem directing the work of construction crews, she was highly respected by the men who worked with her. One remarked, “I wish I had a head like yours, Sister.” Her quick reply was, “Be satisfied with the head God gave you, and make good use of it.”
- **Sister Leocadie**: entered Notre Dame in 1875 at the age of 31. Her major contribution to the work of Notre Dame was her writing, printing and binding Notre Dame literature and other works on printing presses she ran at Sixth Street and later at the Summit, both located in Cincinnati. Among her contributions was editing and printing a magazine for the Notre Dame world called *Among The Reapers of the Fields of Notre Dame* - which she did from 1894-1916 - 1st at 6th Street then at Summit
- **Sister Mary Euphrasia**: role in opening Trinity College; postulant at West Rittenhouse Square in 1873, novitiate at 6th Street, teaches at Academy at Berkeley Street in Boston. 1 of 4 Sisters to visit Namur for the Golden Jubilee of Mère Aloysie in 1886– visited the Teacher Training College; 1893 missioned to
North Capitol and K as superior. It was actually her idea to build Trinity College, and once we have permission, Julia focuses on requirements for admission, courses of study, student life; while Mary Euphrasia focuses on finding and acquiring a site, the building and raising the funds to pay for it all.

- **1st Community at Trinity:**
  - Sister Lidwine of the Sacred Heart Lee – President and Superior of the Community (1900-1902)
  - Sister Josephine Ignatius Tierney – Dean of the College (1900-1903) (studied in England)
  - Sister Anne de Marie Roche – Secretary of the College, Art (1900-1902)
  - Sister Mary Josephine Short – English language and Literature (1900-1903) (on loan from Liverpool)
  - Sister Raphael of the Sacred Heart Pike, M.D. – Greek (1900-1940)
  - Sister Mary Henretty – Latin, Dean (1903-1921) (studied in England)
  - Sister Odilia Funke – German (1900-1937)
  - Sister Blandina of the Sacred Heart Shea – Mathematics, Physics (1900-1904)
  - Sister Anne Madeleine Guerin – French (1900-1919)
  - Sister Mary Hilda McDonald – Music (1900-1901)

- **Sister Raphael of the Sacred Heart:** received her MD in 1885 and started her medical practice. She entered the Novitiate in 1890, is part of the first faculty at Trinity and began the Greek Department, lectures on Hygiene and health consultant for students and faculty alike from the beginning, organized the Biology Department in 1912; during the 1918 flu epidemic she oversaw the care of over 80 students fell ill – all recovered. She’s unanimously elected President of the College in 1920 and in that office she worked to strengthen programs, expand buildings and built the Notre Dame Chapel.

- **Sister Mary Henretty:** She enters the novitiate in 1880 and taught at various academies of Notre Dame until she is selected to be part of the Trinity Faculty in 1899. In 1903 she becomes academic dean and won the respect and admiration of outstanding educators around the country, as well as the love and loyalty of a generation of students.

**Impact of War/Political Unrest:**

- Julia sees 1st hand much of the unrest in Belgium in 1860’s – 1890’s
- Women’s movement in the United States
- Education of Women: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_education_in_the_United_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_education_in_the_United_States) [https://cuomeka.wrlc.org/exhibits/show/catholicschools/sister-teachers/before](https://cuomeka.wrlc.org/exhibits/show/catholicschools/sister-teachers/before)
- Spanish American War (April – August 1898 – a blessing in disguise!)

**Relationship with Hierarchy & Clergy:**

- Americanism Heresy – based on mis-interpretations/translations
- Encouragement & support in building of Trinity College – Cardinal Gibbons, his council, the head of Catholic University, many other bishops
- Roadblocks to building Trinity College – from Pastor of St. Alyosius who doesn’t like Sr. Mary Euphrasia doing the penny collection nationally to raise money for the building of Trinity to German professors antagonistic to Catholic University and higher education of women; 2 articles published in the St. Louise paper, *Der Herold des Glaubens* in 1897 particularly damaging and based on total mis-truths (see Three Against the Wind pgs. 109-119)
  - Catholic University was building a new wing for women called Trinity
  - Catholic University would provide all the faculty
· Would take students away from Catholic University (no women were allowed, perhaps it would dissuade conservative men who did not agree with educating women)
· No religion or Church History would be taught – college was to train women for medical and law degrees

**Primitive Spirit:**
- Journeys to Namur (at least 10): her letters tighten sense of unity between the Sisters in United States and Belgium/England
- Songs of the Institute & Among the Reapers of the Fields of Notre Dame - Anything that made Notre Dame better known to its members and drew them closer together was a joy to Sr. Julia ([*Life of Sr. Julia*](https://example.com) p. 315)
- Sisters are our primary resources: gives up a month’s salary per Sister to get vacation extended for those teaching in parish schools in Cincinnati
- Chooses windows and all connected with Chapel at Summit – look at primitive spirit symbolism
- Simplicity & obedience – refusal to be rushed into decisions regarding Trinity.

**Spirituality underpinning everything:**
- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
- Devotion to scripture/love of the psalms
- Love of the cross

**New insights?**
- Tremendous amount of travel Julia did – exhausts me just thinking about it
- Development of Course of Studies for ND schools, instituting examinations, summer school for the Sisters, etc. had more to do with growing professionalism of education than seeking tighter uniformity
- Reading Circles: a way to fill the need for post-secondary education of women
  - Many of the Sisters in the west themselves did not see any need for higher education, and even those that did were resistant to accepting standards set by organizations outside of the Congregation.
- Mère Aimée de Jésus: huge tensions with Sister Superior Julia and Sister Mary Euphrasia are created by problems that arise in building Trinity College.
  - German professors get the ear of the Nuncio in Washington who sends word to the Sacred Congregation on Religion at the Vatican who goes to the Pope and says an investigation must be made! Leo XIII agrees. The Sacred Congregation demands an explanation from Mère Aimée de Jésus and the Pope tells Cardinal Gibbons to halt the project. The Sisters have no idea about what is going on behind their backs. Mère Aimée de Jésus gets it into her head that Julia is being disobedient and mistrust results.
  - 1898 Julia goes to Namur for Mère Aimée de Jésus’ Golden Jubilee and is asked to explain her views on the Heresy of Americanism which the Sisters have been accused of. Julia has to reply she’s never heard of the heresy. She tries to explain what has happened. She also tries to clear up misunderstandings Mère Aimée de Jésus has about Sr. Mary Euphrasia. Earlier in 1898, when the Auxiliary Regents are trying to get Belgian nobility involved in the fund raising, Mère Aimée de Jésus writes Julia stating her fear that Mary Euphrasia, in seeking the society of fashionable ladies, was becoming impregnated with the spirit of the world and losing the spirit...
of simplicity that should characterize a Sister of Notre Dame. (Three Against the Wind, pgs 131-136)

- Challenges to Collaboration: Cardinal Gibbons pushing for start of Trinity construction, Mère Aimee urging caution, feeling that things are getting out of hand as Auxiliary Regents Board makes grandiose plans – hurt caused to both Julia and Mary Euphrasia as a result, and it breaks Julia’s health to a point she doesn’t completely recover.
- Success at overcoming the obstacle of no money: Mary Euphrasia was a great development officer! She also understands the hard work successful collaboration can be: how to get people to work with us and still have the work guided by our values.

**What touched your heart?**

- No one ever said Julia needed to be more affable – leads with her heart
- Her care for Louise at the end of her life AND care for the Sisters; very aware of recording things to be shared with all the Sisters to help them in their grief; offering superiors a chance to come
- Situation with Aimée de Jésus
- Power of Women – the Auxiliary Regents are women who raise the money for Trinity (Dr. Eagan’s suggestion: work is to be for women, have women raise money) and the power of SNDdeN (Three Against the Wind, pgs 125-6)
- Humility of Sr. Mary Euphrasia: the difficulties with Mère Aimée de Jésus cause her great pain and anxiety. There is no indication that Mère Aimée de Jésus ever reversed the opinion of Sister’s character and motives which she expressed to Sister Julia. Mary Euphrasia writes to Julia suggesting that an apostolate far removed from Washington, even as far away as California, might give her a fresh start in her religious life and help her to attain the only ideal she had ever set for herself – a close union with God.
  - 1901 trip to Namur (her request? Reconciliation?)
  - 1902 Court Street as superior then later to faculty of College of Notre Dame at San Jose
  - Peace attained
  - 1911 – faculty at Franklin Street, Dayton
  - Died April 14, 1918
- Love is central virtue – love of God, love of others, she herself is so loveable by others – “If you love me as I love you, no knife can cut our love in two.”