

Cardinal Stritch University: Its history predates its 86 years of operation

1849

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi settle in the Milwaukee diocese at the invitation of Milwaukee archbishop, the Most Reverend J. Martin Henni, marking the first foundation of vowed Franciscan women to be established in the U.S.

1932

St. Clare Junior College opens as a teacher training college for the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi with 23 novices and postulants enrolled. The College shares quarters with St. Mary's Academy – an all-girls Catholic high school founded by the Sisters – on the Motherhouse property in St. Francis, Wisconsin.

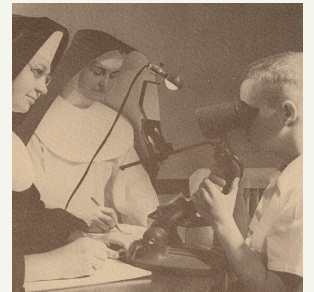


1937

The college becomes a four-year, degree-granting institution for the education of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi and other religious communities and is renamed St. Clare College. Mother Bartholomew Frederick, OSF, is the first president.

1943

The Reading Clinic, among the first of its kind in the Midwest, opens. The clinic continues today, having educated thousands of children and adults while providing opportunities for future teachers to gain experience with various reading methods.



1946

The college opens its doors to laywomen for the first time and changes its name to The Cardinal Stritch College to honor the former archbishop of Milwaukee who encouraged the Sisters to open the college. He stipulates that the college, if named after him, must always provide for students in need.



1956

A new co-educational graduate division is introduced with Master of Arts degrees in special education and reading, reflecting the expertise and ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.

1962

The college moves from the south side to a new 60-acre campus on the north side of Milwaukee in the suburbs of Fox Point and Glendale.



1970

Male students enroll for the first time as the college becomes co-educational.

1980

The nursing program begins in cooperation with Sacred Heart School of Nursing.

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1982

The Programs in Management for Adults – evening, accelerated degree programs for working professionals – begins. While considered a risky move, the program thrives and leads to an enrollment boom.

1985

The campus grows with the addition of a new library, field house, auditorium and campus center.



1987

The leadership defines four Franciscan values at the core of the Stritch experience – creating a caring community, showing compassion, reverencing all creation and peacemaking – to ensure the values of Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi will always remain at the heart of the school.

1997

Cardinal Stritch College becomes Cardinal Stritch University to recognize its growth and expanding academic programs. In addition, the Center for Communication Studies/Fine Arts opens.

1998

The University introduces its first doctoral degree, the Doctorate in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service.

2008

Dr. Helen Sobehart is the first lay president of the University.

2017

Concurrent enrollment programs allow high school students to earn Stritch credit.

2020

The University introduces the Limitless Curriculum, allowing students to customize their studies.

2023

President Dr. Dan Scholz announces the closure of the University at the end of the spring semester.

