The months of December and February saw significant events in our foundation years:

December 20, 1845
Perpetual adoration, conducted silently, was introduced in Steinerberg.

Late in December 1847, date unknown, a group of ten Sisters left Steinerberg to seek a new home in the Alsace in France. Their destiny was Blodelsheim but they settled in Ottmarsheim.

December 3, 1857
Six Sisters left for Gurtweil to which they had been assigned in response to Rev. Kessler’s request. There they opened a home for orphans and neglected children.

December 25, 1869
Before Midnight Mass the Sisters in Gurtweil laid aside their religious habits in order to save their home and to prove their loyalty to the government. Just a little more than a month later, the sisters began the emigration from Germany.

February 2, 1870
The pioneer group of nine Sisters left Gurtweil.

February 5, 1870
They embarked on the ship Hammonia bound for America.

February 16, 1870
The nine pioneer Sisters arrived in New York.

February 28, 1870
The Sisters arrived in Belle Prairie, IL, their first home in America.
December 15, 1871  Mother Augusta received a copy of Bishop Baltes' conditions for our remaining in the Alton Diocese in Illinois. She could not agree to them and, appealing to the Vicar General Msgr. Henry Muehlsiepen for help, she applied for acceptance into the St. Louis Diocese.

December 11, 1872  Fourteen Sisters, seven novices and one postulant lived with the Ursulines at 12th and Russell in St. Louis for three months—until March, 1873. Mother Aloysia, Superior of the Ursulines, welcomed them and gave them a dining room, a community room, and a dormitory for their use.

February 11, 1873  The Sisters began moving to St. Agatha Parish in St. Louis. The pastor, Fr. Hermann Leygraaff, turned the rectory over to them while he lived with a family in the parish.

Later Fr. Leygraaff served as chaplain in O’Fallon, 1879-1881. He died January 30, 1881 and is buried in our cemetery, grave 13:6.
The last several years have been another time of foundation i.e., the transition from Motherhouse to Villa Theresa. Significant events happened during the winter months:

**February 23, 2007** The Community was notified that the Leadership Team had signed a pre-development agreement with **McEagle Properties** to begin intensive work on a Master Plan for the O’Fallon property to be completed by the end of 2007.

**December 21, 2007** Community received word that the application for **senior housing tax credits** has been approved by the Missouri Housing Department Commission.

**January 7-11, 2008** During this week, six representatives from **St. Andrew’s Management Services** initiated their Review of Services, e.g. dietary, maintenance, nursing, housekeeping, etc. St. Andrew’s was very impressed by the dedication, openness, and cooperation of our staff. The review [which continued throughout the following two weeks] provided us with some recommendations of next steps we needed to take with St. Andrew’s toward licensing our nursing care and St. Andrew’s managing some of the services for which we were then directly responsible.

**December 31, 2008** Sr. Mary Whited signed agreements that place the Motherhouse buildings which will become independent senior living apartments and the associated property into the **partnership between St. Mary’s Institute and McEagle Properties**. Agreements for the skilled care portion of the project will be signed later in January, 2009.

**January 12, 2009. Start of Construction** Abatement/Asbestos Removal began in the oldest buildings on the property, i.e., the north wing.

**February 12, 2009** Groundbreaking for the first phase of Village of St. Mary’s. Sisters as well as O’Fallon public officials and representatives from various groups involved in this project attended.

Photo, Left to right: Chris McKee, Srs. Fran Raia, Marie Orf, Mary Whited, Carmen Schnyder, and Carol Boschert, and O’Fallon Mayor Donna Morrow.
In our history, other events of note have occurred during the winter:

**December 4, 1980** Decision to open St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center. Sr. John Antonio Miller was appointed director in April.

**December 15, 2004** CPPS Leadership Team met at the Motherhouse with the Provincial Leadership Team of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, 129 years after the separation into two distinct communities, to deepen connections.

**January 1882** Schiller residence purchased - first known as St. Elizabeth Institute, later as Saint Elizabeth Academy.

**January 1882** Gottfried Schiller began frescoing St. Joseph Chapel, Motherhouse.

**January 18, 1954** Bishop DuBourg High School on Eichelberger was opened.

**January 1973** Social Security was introduced. Congregation entered Social Security Program (Retroactive to 1967).

**January 25, 1982** Motherhouse broad stairs were removed.

**January 26-27, 1999** Pope John Paul II visited St. Louis. He was given this stole made in our Ecclesiastical Art Department.

Events and dates were taken from the "Events Report," the chronology compiled by Sr. Virginia Volkerding and Sr. Mary Joan Dyer.