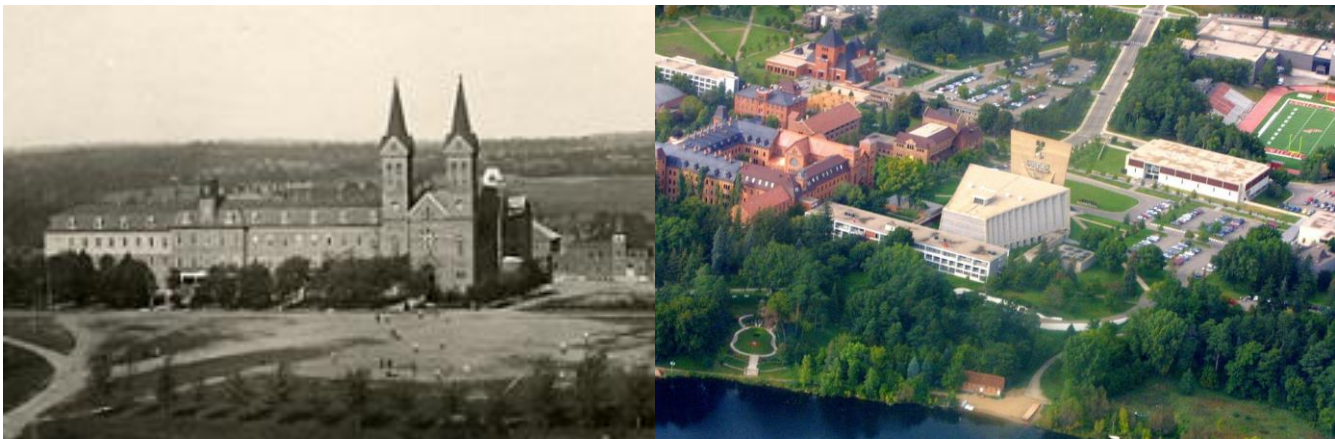




Benedictine Bits

Saint John's: A Historic Look



Benedictine monks from Saint Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania came to Minnesota in 1856 and originally settled on the west bank of the Mississippi, south of Saint Cloud. These five native German priests and brothers came with purpose, to provide parishes, missions, and schools for German Catholic immigrants. So began Saint John's College, as it was called locally, total enrollment: five. In the early 1860s, after learning the "donation" of the Mississippi property would not be possible, because the donors did not actually hold legal title to the land, the monks explored further west and began living and working on the land we know today as Saint John's. Fortunately, the school grew from its meager beginnings to become the state's oldest, continuous, institution of higher learning.