

# LOURDES SENIOR COMMUNITY

## Our History and Legacy

# EARLY HISTORY: ROOTED IN GENEROSITY

- Aaron Mendelson, Detroit industrialist and philanthropist.
- Leader of Fisher Body until it became General Motors in 1926.
- Jennie Mendelson, decorated by Pope Benedict XV for her works of charity.
- Built their home, Menscola Manor, on 36 acres on Scott Lake, in 1918.



*Detroit Free Press called Aaron one of that small group of Detroiters who worked unselfishly to promote the best causes of the city... kindly, charitable, and modest about his accomplishments and donations which he preferred to keep anonymous.*

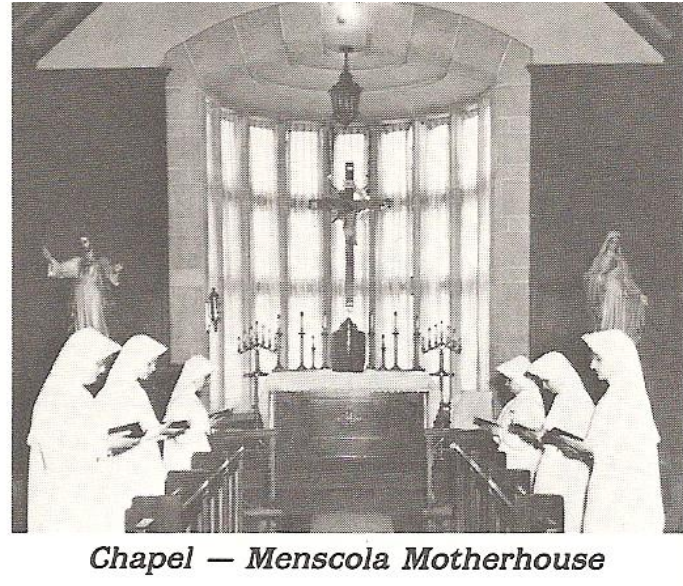
# EARLY HISTORY: ROOTED IN GENEROSITY

## Aaron and Jennie's Children

- Gladys Mendelson Dart (1892-1974), an accomplished pianist and singer, continued the legacy of her parents by administering their trusts and participating in Catholic and civic women's groups.
- Herbert Mendelson (1897-1951), an independent businessman and yachting enthusiast, administered numerous personal trusts and was a lay trustee at Notre Dame University, where he is buried.



# EARLY HISTORY: ROOTED IN GENEROSITY



- Gladys and Herbert donated Menscola Manor to the Archbishop of Detroit, Edward Mooney, in 1939.
- Archbishop Mooney, knowing the sisters were outgrowing their space, exchanged Menscola Manor for the Dominican Sisters' motherhouse in Warren, Michigan.
- Menscola became the new motherhouse and the estate's living room became the Sisters' chapel.

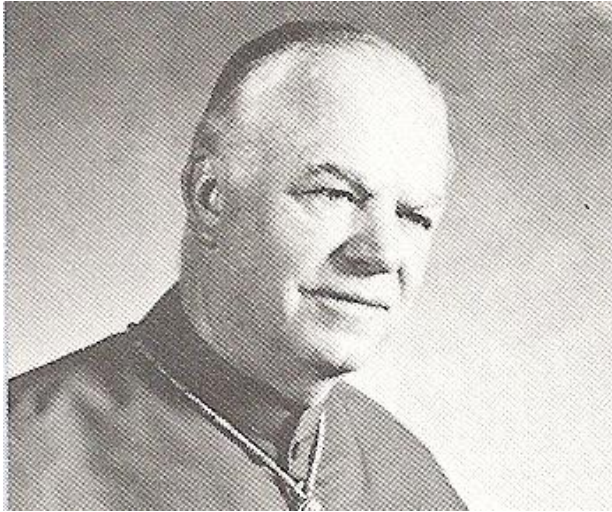
# LOURDES SENIOR COMMUNITY HISTORY

## 1948 – Significant Change

- Outgrowing Menscola, the Dominican Sisters moved their motherhouse to Oxford, Michigan
- Menscola Manor became Menscola Convalescent Home for 10 residents.
- *The Sisters expanded their teaching ministry to include a new ministry to care for the sick and elderly.*



# LOURDES SENIOR COMMUNITY HISTORY



1962

- Detroit Archbishop John E. Dearden asked the Sisters to staff a nursing home to be built at the Menscola site.
- The Sisters responded enthusiastically and were intimately involved in the design and planning phase.
- The Archbishop became Cardinal Dearden in 1969.



*Looking over plans for new nursing home — left to right.  
Mother Lucille, Sister Joseph and Sister Bertrand*

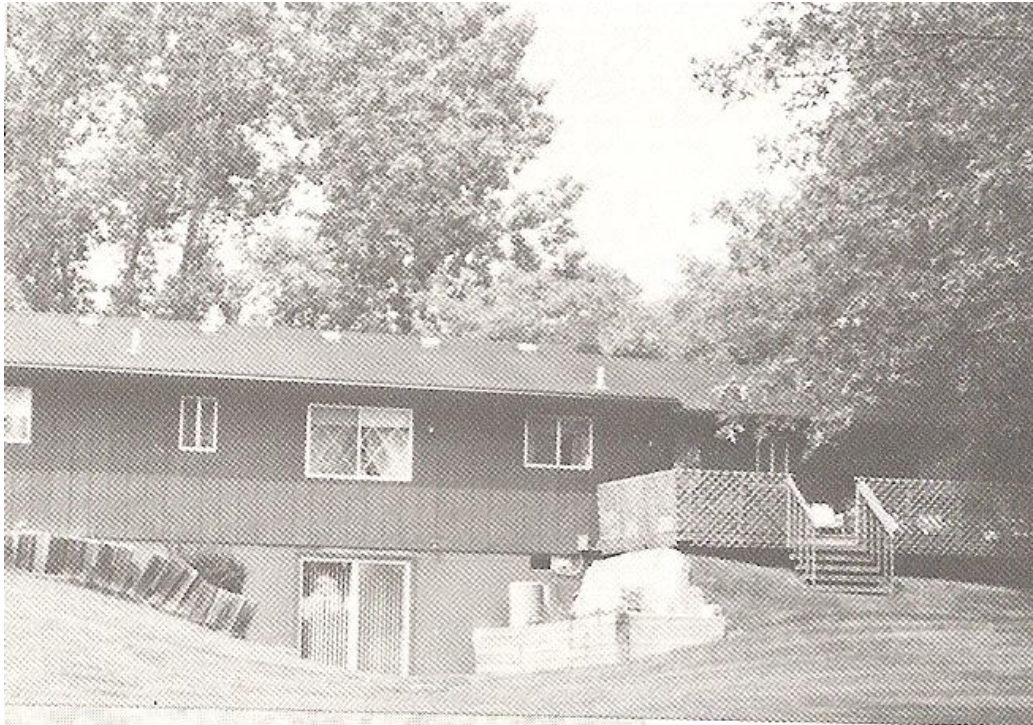
# LOURDES SENIOR COMMUNITY HISTORY



1965

- Lourdes Nursing Home opens for 108 residents.
  - Menscola Manor once again becomes “home” for the sisters working at Lourdes.
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- Cardinal Dearden named the campus “Lourdes” after the famous shrine in France where Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to a young peasant girl 19 times in 1858.
  - Lourdes, France is a place of pilgrimage.

# LOURDES SENIOR COMMUNITY HISTORY



1988

- The Sisters opened the St. Jude Foster Care Home for the frail elderly on the campus.
- St. Jude closed when Mendelson Home opened.

# LOURDES SENIOR COMMUNITY HISTORY



**1991** Fox Manor on the Lake -- 55 independent living apartments for healthy seniors



**1995** Clausen Manor -- Alzheimer's Special Care Center for 20 residents.

*1990s growth reflects cultural changes*



**2001** Mendelson Home -- 60 assisted living apartments for the frail elderly.



# LOURDES SENIOR COMMUNITY

*...a future bright with hope because you are with us!*