It is no accident where the Pangborn Campanile (Grotto bell tower) is located on the side of Mary's Mountain. Here, an immigrant French priest named John DuBois constructed a humble church in 1806. Local Catholics were few in number, divided between the descendants of colonial era English Catholics from southern Maryland and of more recent Irish immigrants who lived near the village of Emmitsburg.

John DuBois was born in Paris on August 24, 1764 and ordained at the age of 23 to serve his home archdiocese. Unforeseen political events would ruin his plans, however, when the French Revolution of 1789 broke out less than two years after his ordination. Carrying a letter of introduction from the Marquis de Lafayette, DuBois left his homeland in 1791 to embrace the life of an itinerant missionary in the United States. One of his many stops was Elder Station across from U.S. Route 15, east of the Mount. Not too far from here, he decided to buy land and eventually retire.

Fr. DuBois formally requested to associate himself with the Sulpician community, which ran a seminary in Baltimore. As a result of this affiliation, he opened a school on his hillside for the education of young boys, who one day might enter the major seminary in Baltimore. The Sulpicians already had enough to do in educating their philosophers and theologians. What began as someone else's idea would become Fr. DuBois' cherished life's work.

Thus Mount St. Mary's was born in 1808. DuBois supervised the building of a large, multi-story structure in hewn logs. This White House stood on what is now called the Terrace and remained in existence until 1901. A visitor to the Mount in 1810 would have noted the presence of four buildings: the church on the hill; DuBois' first log cabin, located where a Celtic stone cross now stands east of the Grotto parking lot; the stone wash house (which now houses an art studio at the foot of the hill; and finally the White House.

As an aside, it should be mentioned that Fr. DuBois vacated his cabin in the summer of 1809, for a short period of time. Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton arrived in the area and needed a place to stay while her own quarters were being prepared in St. Joseph's Valley, closer to Emmitsburg.

Fr. DuBois' cabin disappeared by the outbreak of the Civil War. The Mountain Church, although not used after 1897, stood until July 4, 1913, when an errant Roman candle ignited the shingle roof.

To the left of the Pangborn Campanile, named for a generous family of industrialists and benefactors from Hagerstown, MD, is the Mountain Cemetery, now called St. Anthony's Cemetery where almost all local Catholics were buried after Fr. DuBois arrived. College and seminary notables buried here include many revered priests such as Coad, Bradley, Flynn, Cogan, McCaffrey, McSweeney, Mulcahy and Gallagher, whose names adorn various campus buildings as well as Kline, Phillips, Fives, Forker, and Delaney. These plots are located in "faculty row," a collection of head stones, similar in design, to the left of the driveway.

Behind the faculty plots are the graves of Mother Seton's son, William II, as well as members of his immediate family. Adjacent to these are the plots of three Civil War casualties, at least two of whom attended the Mount in the days before the war. Maurice Byrne, of Milliken's Bend, LA, was shot in the back at Clearspring, MD on July 26, 1864, while on duty with a Confederate patrol. James Norton, a member of the college class of 1862, left school in 1861, enlisted in a local militia unit in his native Alabama, and eventually was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. He languished for many months in a Union camp hospital near York, Pennsylvania before finally dying.
Sisters of St. Francis performed domestic tasks for the college and seminary community for many years, up until 1984. Three small headstones behind faculty row recall the memory of these dedicated women.

Today, a visitor to the Grotto sees three layers of activity or buildings. The first of these dates back to the DuBois period. A huge tree once hung over the mountain stream where the small stone chapel now stands. Much of the soil under the tree had been washed away by the stream, leaving a space large enough under the trunk and inside the roots for a man to stop and shield himself from the elements. DuBois discovered the spot, and Simon Bruté (also an immigrant French priest referred to as the Angel Guardian of the Mount) blessed the spot by hanging a small cross inside. Thus the Grotto was born.

When the tree finally fell, a modest lattice-work structure was made to take its place. By the 1850's, a second structure replaced the first and a third in 1898. The current stone building was built in 1906 and dedicated to the memory of Bishop McGovern of Harrisburg.

The stone wall reproduction of the Lourdes Grotto in France was constructed in 1879 by President Fr. John A. Watterson. Fr. Watterson initiated the project to commemorate the apparitions which had taken place 21 years earlier in France and which had been approved in 1862.

Until 1958, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes was merely a secluded, but very special corner of the campus, known to students and rarely visited by outsiders. The Apostolic Delegate to the United States, the Most Reverend Amleto Cicognani, urged the Mount to open the Grotto to visitors. In honor of the centennial of the apparitions, he obtained impressive indulgences.

After 1958, Grotto Road was widened and paved. Stations of the Cross and mosaic mysteries of the rosary were added, and a statue of the Blessed Mother in Carrara marble was installed above the circular reservoir. Seating for 500 was built in the natural amphitheater above the Grotto (and now seats 1,500). The Pangborn Campanile, which has become a regional landmark, was built in 1965, with St. Mary's Chapel on the Hill opening in 1976. A new Visitors' Center was built and dedicated in June 2013.

The Hughes Cabin, located below the Grotto parking lot, is named for John Hughes, an immigrant Irishman, who lived in the cabin in 1819, while supervising the gardens and taking classes in the seminary. Hughes was later ordained to the priesthood and became Bishop John DuBois' coadjutor in New York City. As Ordinary, he distinguished himself as a leading defender of Catholics in the United States.

The Hughes cabin once stood north of the seminary, but was moved to a spot south of the seminary (now paved) a few years after McSweeney Hall was built. The cabin was brought to this spot on the hillside to heighten its visibility during the celebrations marking the 175th anniversary of the college and seminary's foundation in 1983. In 1995, extensive restoration work was undertaken to replace decayed timbers and protect the cabin from the future ravages of time.

Descending the steps from the Grotto parking lot, one arrives at the back terrace where two structures stand. Right of the steps is Barrett Hall, possibly the oldest structure on campus. Standing east of it, one can distinguish three separate sections of stone wall. The oldest contains the door to the building and corresponds basically to the Elder spring house that antedates the college. A sure source of running water in the early 19th century could not be overestimated. DuBois may have taken this into account when he chose this particular spot to build his cabin and church. Behind Barrett Hall, on the side of the mountain, Green Briar Spring continues to flow. This was the source of the water in the outdoor fountains once used by students.
Barrett Hall was expanded in 1837, so that the upper portion could be used as a chapel. A further expansion in 1894 meant that the students no longer had to climb the steps up the hillside to attend Mass or other church functions.

Purcell Hall, located at the other end of the back terrace, was built as a music hall and also for plays and student entertainment in the days prior to the Civil War.

The main terrace buildings have remained largely unchanged since 1858. Although the three principal terrace buildings are known as DuBois, Bruté and McCaffrey Halls, they were not so named until 1908 – long after their namesakes were dead – during the Centennial celebration. In 2008, during the Bicentennial, a $25 million campaign was launched and completed to renovate these historic residence halls.

DuBois Hall was to be the founder's statement of confidence in the future of the seminary and college. Originally constructed on the back terrace and finished in 1824, it burned on Pentecost Sunday of that year. It was quickly replaced several dozen feet further to the east. Its exterior has been largely unaltered since 1825. DuBois Hall served as the primary seminary building until construction of McSweeney Hall was finished circa 1909.

Bruté Hall occupies the central portion of the terrace buildings and was constructed in 1844. For over a hundred years the campus library was housed in Bruté Hall as was the study hall/commencement hall.

McCaffrey Hall, or at least the first two stories of it, dates from 1858. Construction was halted so that proper attention could be given to building a new college chapel. Parallel to McCaffrey Hall, and occupying a now-clear portion of the terrace, stood John DuBois' original White House, which remained on the Terrace until Easter Week of 1901.

Construction of a chapel of suitable proportions started in 1858. The proposed structure extended from the front door of today's chapel, downhill to Echo Field and to where Flynn Hall now stands. It was to be a brownstone and Gothic design. The Civil War intervened and construction was halted. Finances soured, due mainly to financially ruined Southern families who could no longer pay their bills. The Mount faced bankruptcy by 1881. The grand chapel remained unfinished with only the walls standing. The brown stones were subsequently mined for usable pieces when Flynn Hall came to be constructed between 1901 and 1903.

On August 26, 1907, college president Fr. Denis Flynn officially broke ground for the new edifice, the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. The cornerstone was laid in 1908 for the Centennial. On October 12, 1910, the chapel was solemnly opened. Later, renovations were made to bring the chapel into conformity with the norms of the Second Vatican Council. The new interior decor was unveiled on October 22, 1978. A $2.5 million restoration was completed in 2011 and re-dedicated on September 13, 2011. It is the most extensive work done in one hundred years.

South of the chapel is St. John's Well. The spring could possibly be one of those cleaned and landscaped by Fr. Simon Bruté in the early years of the 19th century. The priest had a penchant for discovering new springs and for carving out paths in the underbrush so that others could go contemplate them.

The stone work in the upper part of St. John's Well (named for John DuBois' patron), was completed in 1879. The Well, along with the Grotto, was part of President Watterson's campus beautification project. A spring emerges from the hill and empties into a small reservoir from where the water flows into a lower basin.
Until 1982, a concrete basin and multi-level cast iron fountain caught this run-off, however, the fountain was in a ruinous condition and could no longer hold water. The entire lower part of St. John's Well was remodeled. The earthen ramp was extended and a new basin constructed. The work was supervised by seminarian John Dobrosky, Diocese of Trenton. It had been his intention to dedicate the fountain to alumni, living and dead. At Seminary Alumni Reunion in 1982, the renovated St. John's Well was dedicated to honor the recently-martyred Mountaineer priest, Fr. Stanley Rother, Seminary Class of 1963.

During the Mount's first hundred years, the seminary was housed in what would now be considered the terrace buildings. DuBois Hall functioned for many years as the seminary. As late as 1899, a $17,000 campaign was launched to renovate the DuBois seminary. However, in 1905, the College Council voted to erect a separate building for the seminary. The cornerstone for the future McSweeny Hall was laid on October 8, 1906.

The building remained largely unchanged until 1947. Funds were raised to double the size of the chapel, install new pews, stained glass windows and an altar, as well as partition the fourth floor dormitories into individual rooms. Originally, a 36-room addition had been projected for the south wing, extending back toward the mountainside where Gallagher wing now stands. This idea was dropped.

Upon entering the ground floor of McSweeny Hall, one can see a portion of the extensive renovation work started in April of 1990. During this time, a sprinkler system and air conditioning were installed throughout the building and the water and heating systems were upgraded. Corridors and doors were painted in the residential quarters, ceilings were lowered and lighting was improved. While the wood paneling and pressed metal ceilings of the main floor were carefully preserved, the ground floor was completely redesigned to better serve the needs of seminarians and faculty. Along the wall of the ground floor corridor are the photographs of the many bishops who send men to Mount St. Mary's Seminary, as well as a set of pictures portraying the Mount during the different seasons of the year.

Pictures of the various seminary rectors are featured on the main floor. The first of the pictures is Fr. Philip Gallagher, Seminary Class of 1897, who assumed the post of Rector in 1930. Prior to this time, and dating back to the DuBois era, the college President had always served as Rector. He would usually name another priest to oversee seminary affairs, but the posts of President and Rector were held by the same priest.

This situation changed in 1930 with the appointment of Fr. Gallagher. He would hold the position until 1941, when Fr. Edward D. O'Connell was named to the post. Fr. O'Connell died six months later, in February 1942 and Fr. Gallagher resumed his old duties for the remainder of the academic year.


The seminary has expanded to three new wings over the years with the construction of Gallagher Hall (1959-60), Mulcahy Hall (1975) and Keating Hall, dedicated in January 2000.

Over the years, many interesting fables have been recounted about the Mount history. Among these are that the Mount was forced to paint McSweeney ceilings white during the first World War to keep the government from confiscating the valuable copper as war materiel. In fact, the ceilings are of a galvanized metal and would be worth very little if removed.

Also, it has been told that there were slave pens under the seminary and tunnels under Echo Field used by the Underground Railroad. In pre-Civil War days, as the story goes, the Mount's slaves were kept in these basement pens while, mysteriously enough, the same institution helped to ferry slaves into the north. This story ignores the fact that McSweeney Hall was built forty years after war's end. There were no tunnels that have ever been located under Echo Field.

Mother Seton is supposed to have chastised Union and Confederate troops and told them to hold their battle somewhere other than Emmitsburg. This story, too, looks attractive until we remember that Mother Seton had been in her grave 42 years before the Battle of Gettysburg was fought.

Students will sometimes relate how the Mount acquired its naval gun, its old gym, and its beloved Echo Field. Attempts will be made to link all three to the Navy’s V-5 and V-12 officer training schools that operated at the Mount during World War II. Supposedly, Echo Field was used as a landing strip, and the gun used to defend the place against possible trouble from above. The old gym, furthermore, was purported to have been built to house the aircraft that landed in Echo Field.

In fact, Echo Field was never used as a landing strip. The naval gun, taken from the USS Detroit, was given to the Mount in 1946. The USS Detroit was berthed in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The gym was intended to be erected in the western Pacific as an aircraft hangar. Since the assault on the Japanese home islands never materialized, the hangar was declared war surplus on the U.S. west coast. During the summer of 1949, it was shipped through the Panama Canal, travelled up the east coast to Baltimore, and trucked to Emmitsburg. It was hoped that the gym would be in place for the 1949/50 basketball season, but the summer sun made the metal plates on the roof too hot to handle. Opening of the gym was delayed until late 1950.

Back in the days of DuBois and Bruté, a road ran through campus, connecting Emmitsburg and Thurmont. Students crossed this road every day when they walked between Bradley Hall and the library. The local population preferred this road to the toll road that ran out of Emmitsburg, and frequent remonstrations by the college failed to stem the practice. Not until the late 1800’s did the college succeed in closing the road to public traffic. Even today a barrier remains at the head of St. Anthony Road as a reminder that this is not a public thoroughfare.

Because the road ran through campus, Mount buildings never expanded eastward until a century after the college and seminary was founded. Memorial Gym was the first substantial college structure to be erected on the other side of the road. It was followed by Pangborn Hall (1955), Cogan Student Union Building (1960-61), and eventually Phillips Library, Sheridan Hall, Coad Hall, Knott Academic Center, apartment towers (Keelty, Rooney, and Horning), and the Knott Athletic, Recreation and Convocation complex. The Cogan Student Union Building was expanded and renamed the McGowan Center, which includes Patriot Hall to honor alumni and alumni family members who died on September 11, 2001.
With the widening of U.S. Route 15 in 1979-80, the campus was once more cut in half. Fortunately, a pedestrian walkway was installed under the highway to link the main campus with the athletic fields beyond the highway. From beyond the ARCC, one can still see the small country road that brought thousands of students to Mount St. Mary's over the years. The remains of College Lane still stretch out toward Old Frederick Road and beyond.

Among U.S. Catholic seminaries, the Mount is second in age only to St. Mary's in Baltimore (founded in 1791). Now a university, the Mount is the second oldest Catholic college in the United States. (Georgetown University was founded in 1789). It is impossible to distinguish the college from the seminary during the early years of the institution. In the early days, the official title of the institution was "Mount Saint Mary's Seminary". The word college only came into use in 1830 when a charter was obtained from the State of Maryland. The purpose of DuBois' school was, at least in theory, to train boys and young men to the point where they would be ready to enter the Sulpicians' major seminary in Baltimore. In the terminology of the times, this made the Mount a "Petit Seminaire".

In fact, from the Mount's founding, DuBois admitted some boys who showed little interest in an ecclesiastical career. This mixture would yield doctors and lawyers as well as priests. As students matured, they would be allowed to teach basic subjects to the younger boys. So, ultimately, theology students helped to teach college students, who in turn helped teach the high school students, who helped look after those students who were even younger. This system lasted into the twentieth century, when the seminary, college, and prep school became distinct educational entities.

Throughout the seminary's first century, what we would now call graduating classes, were not large at all. Three or four men would be the norm. Ten graduates would have been considered a great number indeed. At the start of the third millennium, the Mount seminary can count more than 2,600 priest alumni, more than half of whom are presently alive and involved in ministerial work. In addition, 51 alumni priests have been consecrated to the episcopacy, rightfully earning for the Mount the distinction as the "Cradle of Bishops."
**SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE MOUNT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 24, 1764</td>
<td>The Mount’s founder, Fr. John DuBois, is born in Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22, 1787</td>
<td>Fr. John DuBois is ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Paris</td>
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<td>July 1791</td>
<td>Fr. John DuBois emigrates to America and arrives in Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>1791-1806</td>
<td>Fr. DuBois works as a circuit-riding priest in northwestern Virginia and Maryland</td>
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<td>Aug. 15, 1806</td>
<td>Fr. DuBois dedicates his new church on the hillside</td>
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<tr>
<td>October, 1808</td>
<td>Construction begins on Mount St. Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>June, 1809</td>
<td>Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton arrives in Emmitsburg from Baltimore with her first sisters</td>
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<td>1812</td>
<td>Fr. Simon Gabriel Bruté arrives at the Mount</td>
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<td>1814</td>
<td>John Hickey is ordained as the Mount’s first priest</td>
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<tr>
<td>December, 1825</td>
<td>DuBois Hall is opened</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6, 1826</td>
<td>Fr. DuBois leaves the Mount on his way to Baltimore and his episcopal consecration as third Bishop of New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>June, 1842</td>
<td>Bishop DuBois visits his beloved Mount for the last time</td>
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<td>December 20, 1842</td>
<td>Bishop DuBois dies in New York and is succeeded by Mount Bishop John Hughes</td>
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<td>Spring, 1844</td>
<td>Construction is completed on Bruté Hall</td>
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<td>January, 1858</td>
<td>McCaffrey Hall opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1-3, 1863</td>
<td>Students and seminarians watch the Battle of Gettysburg at Indian Lookout</td>
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<tr>
<td>June, 1875</td>
<td>John Cardinal McCloskey, America’s first cardinal, returns to the Mount</td>
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<td>1884</td>
<td>The Baltimore Council recognizes the Mount as a major seminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Echo Field is laid out in the former college vegetable gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>October, 1903</td>
<td>Flynn Hall Gymnasium opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 8, 1906</td>
<td>Cornerstone is blessed for McSweeny Hall in the seminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>August, 1907</td>
<td>Ground is broken for the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12, 1910</td>
<td>Solemn Opening of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception</td>
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<tr>
<td>May, 1921</td>
<td>Babe Ruth visits the Mount campus</td>
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1930 Fr. Philip Gallagher becomes the first Rector of the seminary

Spring, 1936 The Mount prep school closes

November, 1949 Memorial Gymnasium, a World War II aircraft hangar, is dedicated

May, 1958 President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivers commencement address during 150th anniversary

Summer, 1959 Construction starts on Gallagher wing of the seminary

June, 1961 Ground broken for Cogan Student Union Building

Fall, 1964 Ground broken for Coad Science Building

December 9, 1975 Mother Teresa visits the Mount

October 1975 Mulcahy wing of the seminary and Knott Academic Center are dedicated

September, 1987 Knott ARCC is dedicated

1990-1991 Multi-million dollar renovations of McSweeny, Gallagher and Mulcahy Halls

December, 1995 Mother Teresa makes her second visit to the Mount

December 5, 1999 Keating wing of the seminary is dedicated

2002-2003 Expansion of Cogan Student Union Building into the McGowan Center

June, 2004 Mount St. Mary’s College and Seminary becomes Mount St. Mary’s University

October 6, 2005 Bishops' Garden dedicated

October 2, 2006 Centennial Blessing of McSweeny Hall

August 24, 2007 Formal start of the Bicentennial Celebration

October 12, 2008 Closing Mass and end of the Bicentennial

December, 2008 DuBois Hall restoration completed

April 29, 2010 Blessing of Year of Priests Garden

June 5, 2010 Veterans Walkway Dedication

October 12, 2010 Centennial Opening of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

September 13, 2011 Chapel of the Immaculate Conception Re-dedication Mass

June 2013 Grotto Visitors’ Center Dedication Mass