Expansion and a "Shaking Up"

1870-1910

1875

The last religious group exiled from Guatemala, the Sisters leave behind families, many beloved students, buildings, and gardens including over 2000 coffee plants used to support the orphanage. Twenty-nine Sisters are welcomed in California.

1893

Philanthropist Amanda O'Connor was so taken by the need of the orphans in San Jose that she gave her mansion to the Sisters to serve as a home for these children.



1881

Notre Dame Academy, Alameda, opens in collaboration with the local pastor of St. Joseph's Church. This year marks the beginning of a trend to establish parish schools.



1899

Moreland Notre Dame school in Watsonville was a generous gift from Mrs. Margaret Moreland in remembrance of her daughter, Josephine, who died while attending the College of Notre Dame.

1906

Sr. Mary Bernardine sends the following telegram after the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco: "The Sisters, the children, all safe. God is good. Buildings can be rebuilt." The newly built Notre Dame school on Dolores Street in San Francisco was dynamited to prevent the spread of fire to the Mission.



1898 school and convent

1906 earthquake

Today