



Pine Hills

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Summer

1963

1953- 1963

Quietly, with hardly a stir, June 27th, 1963, passed, and with it the first decade of Pine Hills History. Perhaps a few thoughts are in order from the retrospect department.

The life of a scholasticate parallels a human life. In both there is birth, growth and a passing away. But more important, both are unique. There are no duplicates, either in human lives or in scholastically. So it is with Pine Hills.

Canonically erected on June 27th, 1953 by Very Rev. Edwin J. Guild, OMI, then Provincial, blessed by the late Cardinal Valerio Valeri on August 10 1954, and first visited by the Superior General March 13, 1955: these are the landmark dates. Statistically, of the 220 men who were part of the community at one time or another, 81 have been ordained priests to date.

Yes, dates, facts and figures are interesting, but they are dead if we stop there.

If we want to find out what Our Lady of the Snows has really been, and is now, we must see it as almost alive. Born on that June day, it came to life with an heredity--a long list of ancestors reaching back to the backwoods of Judea-which give it its basic character.

But Pine Hills doesn't exist in a vacuum; it lives in a world of people, places and events unique to itself . To this world the community had to adjust, till gradually it began to develop its own personality.

Man's goal as that of a scholasticate remains the same: following Christ to God. But this is worked out in a definite set of circumstances, in this world of atomic bombs, world-wide socialization, of poverty and wealth, in this world of the 20th century. And how is Pine Hills adjusting? In many ways.

For some practical examples, Our Lady of the Snows is a community of Northerners transplanted into the South-it is adjusting. The Scholasticate is an integral part of the Catholic Church and the Oblate Congregation, and also of the United States of America and the State of Mississippi-it is adjusting. Pine Hills is a community of men of a hundred different backgrounds, living together as one community-they are adjusting, and are the better for it. In this process of adjustment, of maturing, this Scholasticate has developed a spirit.

Pine Hills has a spirit because it is alive. How can we define it? We can't! Although we may try to list its qualities, the life of Pine Hills can't be defined or explained. We can understand it, but only if we live it. . . .