His next project was Saint Joseph's Home, which he envisioned as an orphanage and a residence for the Benedictine Sisters who staffed the Cathedral grade and high schools. Under his surveillance, St. Anne's Hall came into being and an addition was built to St. Vincent's Hospital. Some 50 churches were erected and 36 rectories constructed or enlarged.

As tremendous as were his material accomplishments, the spiritual growth of his diocese cannot be measured. Under his administration of 28 years, the number of priests increased from 31 to 80; the sisters from 79 to 313.

Bishop Corbett was a man of vision, of unbounded courage, of fervent prayer and selfless zeal for souls. When he died on July 20, 1939, at the age of 81, the Crookston Diocese lost a peerless leader.

Right Reverend Bishop Timothy Corbett D.D.
First Bishop of Crookston.

acquired adjoining property on North Ash for new buildings of which he was already dreaming. Bishop Corbett's dreams always became actualities within a short time. An eminent scholar himself, he considered a parochial school of vital importance. Accordingly in September, 1911, the Cathedral School opened with an enrollment of 125. In the beginning, it served only as a grade school, but classes were gradually added until there was a complete high school. The building was also the center for the Knights of Columbus. When St. Mary's Church was closed, the former parishioners attended the Eucharistic Sacrifice in the school auditorium until the Cathedral was constructed.

Besides the deep concern which Bishop Corbett manifested for all the people of his diocese, he had a special love for children. Each month he would take time out to come to the Cathedral School to read the report card of each student from first grade to the senior class. The first mark he would look at was that given for conduct. Woe betide the student whose conduct mark didn't come up to the Bishop's expectations!

To staff these institutions and to minister to the sick and aged, he invited the Sisters of St. Benedict from Duluth to begin a motherhouse, novitiate and academy in Crookston. He also requested the Saint Joseph Sisters of Bourg, France to erect an academy.

As further proof of his zeal for education, he was responsible for the erection of two high schools and nine grade schools. He supervised the building of Mount Saint Benedict. Almost every day he would walk around the partially completed structure, talk with the workmen, and give his suggestions.

BENEDICTINE SISTERS MOUNT ST. BENEDICT, CROOKSTON

Long before the traveler enters the city of Crookston from any direction, he sees the massive tower of Mount St. Benedict against the skyline. It is a visible symbol of the Benedictine Sisters' attempt to carry out their motto: "Ora et Labora" — "Pray and Work." Involved in both these activities, the Sisters penetrated Polk County between the late 1880's and the present day. Recognizing the needs of the pioneering people of Polk County, the Sisters of St. Benedict from Duluth established a hospital and a school in East Grand Forks as early as 1897. In 1902 they opened St. Vincent Hospital in Crookston, and in 1912 they staffed the Cathedral School built by Bishop Corbett.

The need for a permanent religious community in Crookston caused Bishop Corbett in 1919 to request Sister Eustacia Beyenka of Duluth to establish a new foundation for Benedictine Sisters in Crookston. Forty-two Sisters accompanied Sister Eustacia, a woman of vision and courage. Of this original group of heroic women, only twelve remain living members of the community today. Sister Eustacia was chosen the first religious superior of the group and was given the title of Mother Eustacia.

In 1920 the Sisters purchased a 50-acre tract of land at the edge of Crookston on the Red River, including Pigeon Hill of local historical fame and a stretch of woodland. In the spring of 1921, a temporary dining room, dormitory, and chapel were built to house the Sisters until the new convent could be erected on the highest point of the property. In 1923 a convent and academy building was completed and was given the name of Mount St. Benedict. The academy high school was opened to girls from Crookston, and a residence hall provided for girls from the surrounding area.