

Responding to a request made by then Bishop of Chicago, James Duggan, the Vincentian Community came to Chicago in 1875 and purchased the property bordered by Sheffield, Webster, Osgood (now Kenmore) and Belden Streets.

Rev. Edward Smith, C.M. who was pastor of a Vincentian parish in LaSalle, Illinois, was sent to establish both a parish and school. Construction of an all-purpose building was begun that year and finally completed in 1876 when its official dedication took place on April 30th. The building was designed to house schoolrooms, a parish hall, living quarters for the priests and a church on the top floor.

By 1891 it was clear that the building was woefully inadequate. Thus, planning began for a new, larger church as well as a school to serve the rapidly growing population of the neighborhood. Rev. Felix Guedry, the third successor of Rev. Smith, established the first free-standing St. Vincent's School.

St. Vincent de Paul Church continues as a vital and active parish. The grammar school, after more than one hundred years of service, closed its doors in 1978.