

On October 30, 1942, a devastating fire destroys Old Main. The work of nearly a century, the interconnected complex of buildings included classrooms, dormitories, offices, recreational spaces and the Chapel–it was the physical heart of Saint Francis College. Reduced to a shell by the early morning blaze, "the Red Cross set up temporary dining facilities for five days." The College suspends classes for two weeks and moves operations to the recently acquired Schwab Estate. Continuing in its mission there, Saint Francis then began the process of campus reconstruction. (Stewards of the Vision, page 165)







