In 1924, the church purchased the Boston Lying Inn Hospital for a new girl’s school staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame, and in 1946 Quinn purchased the Wells School (on present site of Shriners Burn Institute) for use as a new boy’s school. However, in the 1940s and 1950s urban flight severely impacted the population of the West End. Parts of the West End were destroyed to widen Cambridge Street and expand Massachusetts General Hospital. Eventually the entire West End was slated for Urban Renewal by the City of Boston.

The last graduation was held at St. Joseph’s School in 1958 and two years later, in 1960, the Church and Refectory stood alone amid the rubble of a decimated West End.