Breen-Phillips Hall

HALL HISTORY

Originally constructed as a men’s residence hall in 1939, Breen-Phillips Hall was named after its benefactors, alumni and brothers-in-law William P. Breen and Frank B. Phillips. During World War II, this hall served as a home for naval officers in training. At one point, the athletic department, including the office of head football coach Frank Leahy, was located in the basement of Breen-Phillips Hall. In 1984, Pope John Paul II imparted an Apostolic Blessing on BP. In 2014, Pope Francis imparted his Apostolic Blessing on the residents of BP in celebration of the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the BP community.

Breen-Phillips became one of the first women’s residences after the University began admitting women in 1972. The Breen-Phillips Meal Auction, the dorm’s signature event, raises donations for the Robinson Center from students bidding to eat with coaches, faculty, or other ND notables.

Famous alums include retired astronaut James Wetherbee (1974), a veteran of six space flights.

ROOM INFORMATION

Breen-Phillips offers a few different room arrangements, most of which are double rooms (75%). A handful of single rooms and triples are also found in the hall. There are currently two, 4-person suites.

RECTOR: SR. MARY CATHERINE McNAMARA, SIW

Sister Mary Catherine McNamara is a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Cleveland, Ohio. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College of Cleveland and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Akron.

Throughout the years she has ministered as a teacher, principal, youth specialist, child advocate, clients’ rights officer and accreditation manager. In addition to being on countless committees in her Congregation, she has also served as Councilor on the Leadership Team, as Assistant Congregational Leader and also held an elected role in the Conference of Religious Leaders in the Diocese of Cleveland. Her diverse background and wealth of residential experience has well prepared her for her current position as Rector of Breen-Phillips Hall.

FAST FACTS

Established: 1939
Mascot/Nickname: Babes
Colors: Blue/Pink
Quad Location: North Quad
Chapel: Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi
Signature Event: BP Meal Auction for Charity
Charity: Meals on Wheels

FACILITY OVERVIEW

Number of Floors: 4
Number of Rooms: 105
Capacity: 209
Elevator? Yes
Air Conditioning? No
Study Room(s)? Yes
Exercise Room? Yes
Kitchen Access? Yes
Laundry Facilities? Yes
Sinks in Rooms? Yes
Modular Furniture? No

CAMPUS LOCATION

North: Farley Hall
South: Clarke Memorial Fountain
East: Center for Social Concerns
West: Zahm Hall, Cavanaugh Hall
The position of Assistant Rector is primarily a ministry of service to the University of Notre Dame and the Breen-Phillips community. In this position, the Assistant Rector plays a significant role in enhancing the Christian community of the hall through example, actions, and participation in the life of the hall and that of its residents. The Assistant Rector is to value the mission and traditions of ND as guided by the charism of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Generally, Assistant Rectors are expected to maintain a calming presence, serve as mentors and role models while also supporting, implementing and enforcing University and Hall policies and procedures. They are to provide pastoral support to all those in the Hall, be prepared to handle crisis situations which may arise, and assist the Rector with varied tasks and projects. The Assistant Rectors either oversees Hall Government or the Liturgical life of the hall.

The following are more specific aspects of the job:

**Responsibilities Include:**

- To attend and participate in the staff orientation processes
- To attend continuing education opportunities for Assistant Rectors as scheduled
- To assist the Rector in the development of community life
- To maintain open communication with the Rector
- To assist the Rector in the completion of administrative duties
- To actively participate and assist in facilitating weekly Head Staff and Hall Staff Meetings
- To commit to the development of team at both Head Staff and Hall Staff meetings
- To maintain clear and open communication between Hall Staff members
- To be responsible for the supervision and mentoring of three Resident Assistants and Hall Employees as assigned
- To develop and maintain a professional relationship with the Resident Assistants to allow for feedback and address concerns
- To maintain availability for residents to discuss concerns and joys about academics, health, spirituality, and other life issues
- To fulfill responsibilities for duty coverage during the week and fall/spring breaks
- To be actively present in the community on nights other than when on duty
- To address emergency/discipline situations as required
- To work closely with members of the community to plan events
- To be available for bi-monthly hall shopping; monthly reconciliation of credit card receipts
- To know and enforce *Du Lac*
- To maintain confidentiality
- To attend Sunday Liturgies
- To perform any additional activities at the discretion of the Rector

**Skills Needed:**

- Ability to relate with a variety of people
- Ability to work on a team
- Ability to deal with conflict and challenge disruptive behavior in a professional manner
- Ability to maintain appropriate boundaries
- Ability to state opinions in a respectful manner when presenting differing viewpoint
- Open to and committed to the development of leadership in self and others
- Open to own personal growth
- Interpersonal skills incorporating flexibility, respect, compassion, creativity, enthusiasm, credibility and a good sense of humor.