

Featuring Christ the King School



Christ the King Parish in Detroit was founded in 1927. While the church was under construction, Mass was held in the auditorium of Redford High School.

A month after dedicating the new church, the stock market crashed. Determined parishioners decided to keep the parish open, pay their construction debts and also to establish a school.

Their determination paid off. In September 1938, four IHM Sisters opened Christ the King School for 170 children in grades one through four. With construction incomplete, they held classes in a hallway and in the auditorium, with partial partitions between the grades. With great understatement, the convent chronicler reports that "The noise was quite novel." Classes moved to the new building in late November.



The school grew quickly. By 1944, nine IHMs taught 482 students in eight grades. The parish broke ground for a new wing of the school in March 1947 to accommodate all the children wanting to attend.

Fund-raising, of course, was part of life. The convent chronicler notes that during the 1956-57 school year, "The annual Bazaar upset the school. The lunches and pony rides were a new feature (sic) and a never-to-be-forgotten experience for a harassed faculty."

During our **Featured Class Year**, 1959, 16 IHM Sisters and five lay teachers taught the 994 students. That was the year "The entire school walked to Outer Drive...to form a guard of honor for the funeral cortege of His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney."



That was also the year the annual May crowning was held in church for the first time in many years, and the year the school installed a new state-of-the-art fire alarm system – an event so impressive it was featured in the *Detroit News*.

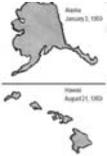
Another "first" that year was that the graduating eighth-graders didn't have a dance in their honor. Instead, they received a class day – Mass, breakfast and the rest of the day free. Graduation for the 91 students took place June 7, and **Lawrence Place, Margaret Howe, Robert Cavanaugh, John McGuinness** and **Judith Lynne** all received scholarships to local Catholic high schools.

The chronicler remarks at the end of the year, "Thus another year comes to a close...Deo Gratias."

Enrollment at Christ the King peaked during the 1963-64 school year, with 1,008 students taught by 14 IHMs and seven lay teachers. French classes began that year, as did the Junior Great Books Program. The new church was dedicated in May 1964, and the "New King" wing of the school opened in 1966, the same year sex education for eighth-graders – taught by Father Goodbout – began.

IHM Sisters remained active in the school through the '70s and '80s; however, they left for other ministries in June 1988. Christ the King School remains open for students pre-K through eighth grade.

In 1959



Dwight D. Eisenhower was president of the United States. Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states.

Fidel Castro assumed power in Cuba.



The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences sponsored the first Grammy Award ceremony for music recorded in 1958. Frank Sinatra won his first Grammy -- Best Album for *Come Dance with Me*.



Comic actor Lou Costello, legendary film director Cecil B. DeMille, baseball great Mel Ott and architect Frank Lloyd Wright all died.



The Academy Award for Best Picture went to *Gigi*, starring Leslie Caron and Maurice Chevalier.

Some Like It Hot, *North by Northwest*, *Ben-Hur*, *Anatomy of a Murder* and *Room at the Top* were hot at the box office.

Jane Wyatt received an Emmy as Best Actress in a Comedy Series for her role in *Father Knows Best*. Best Actor in a Dramatic Series went to Raymond Burr in *Perry Mason*.



The Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Chicago White Sox in six games to win the World Series. The Boston Celtics swept the NBA Championship Series against the Minneapolis Lakers. The Montreal Canadiens won their fourth straight Stanley Cup. They beat the Toronto Maple Leafs in four games.