

## St. Cyprian School – Riverview, Mich.

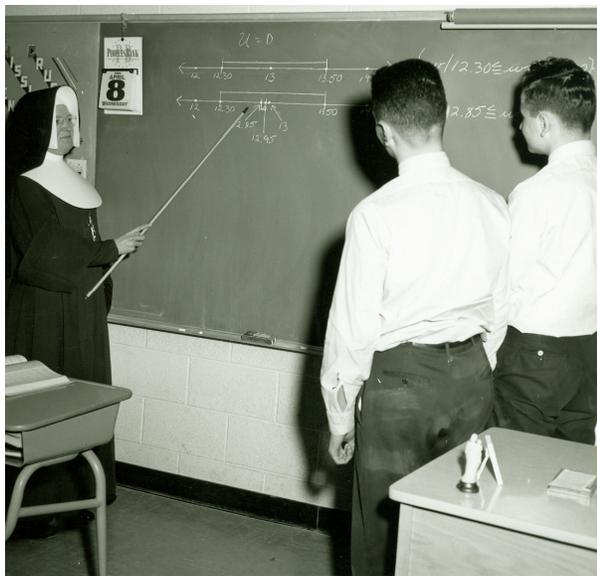


St. Cyprian School in Riverview, Mich. opened in 1958 with four IHM Sisters, one lay teacher and 207 students in grades one through four, with the plan of adding one grade each year. In order to save money, parishioners installed the tile flooring for the entire building.

The convent chronicler noted that the students “were all active, happy, loving children. Coming from the more progressive schools they have little regard for ‘silence times and places.’ The parents...have encouraged us to be quite firm.”

School traditions began that first fall when students in the first three grades dressed as their patron saints instead of Halloween costumes. The following year, the touching practice of writing thank-you letters to God and presenting the letters at the Thanksgiving Mass began.

Safety was a priority at St. Cyprian, and the safety patrol boys earned green safety flags for three consecutive years of being accident-free. The chronicler remarks, “We lost the green flag when a student on a bike collided with a car.”



By the early 1960s, the school encompassed grades one through eight. CYO football and baseball teams had been established; St Nicholas, in the person of an eighth-grade boy, distributed treats Dec. 6; and bus service began. Incorporating some of the changes from Vatican II, in 1964, “The children began the English responses [at Mass] and learned many new hymns...It was through the children that Father was successful in introducing the changes to the entire parish.”

Sister Marie Carmel Dunigan, IHM, and Mr. J. Palgut were the homeroom teachers (in rooms 112 and 113) for the Class of 1970, our **Featured Class Year**. Sister Suzanne (James

Ann) Molloy, IHM, was principal. The football team won the championship. The eighth-graders enjoyed several outings that year, including to Ford Auditorium for a Young People’s Concert; to Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village; and to Edgewater Amusement Park. **Mary Kay Uroda** won first place in the annual science fair, and **Linda McLain** crowned the statue of Mary in May. The 73 members of the Class of 1970 graduated on June 10.

Proposal C, which eliminated aid to parochial schools, was passed by the voters in Michigan, and St. Cyprian, like other private schools throughout the state, was affected. Initially, the parish thought it would have to close the school, but the Archdiocese of Detroit allowed it to stay open – with only one classroom for each grade. In one year, the enrollment dropped from 510 to 277.

In spite of the dramatically reduced student body, though, St. Cyprian School remained active. Eighth-graders published *The Spotlight* each month and enjoyed Mardi Gras, spelling bees, math-a-thons, book fairs, spirit weeks and field days.

The IHM Sisters left St. Cyprian School in 1985. The school closed in 2007.

### **In 1970**

The median household income in the United States (in current dollars) was \$8,734. Unemployment stood at 3.5 percent; and a first-class stamp cost 6 cents.

Four students at Kent State University in Ohio were killed by National Guardsmen at a demonstration protesting incursion into Cambodia.

Elton John released his first album in the U.S.

IBM introduced the floppy disk. Bar codes were introduced for retail and industrial use in England.

*Midnight Cowboy* won the Best Picture Oscar, the first and only time an X-rated movie received the honor.

Monday Night Football debuted on ABC, with Howard Cosell, Frank Gifford and Don Meredith giving play-by-play.

At the Emmy Awards, *Marcus Welby, M.D.* was named Outstanding Dramatic Series, and its star, Robert Young, received an Emmy for Outstanding Continued Performance By an Actor in a Leading Role in a Dramatic Series.

In Super Bowl IV, it was the Kansas City Chiefs over the Minnesota Vikings, 23-7. The New York Knicks won their first NBA championship, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers 113-99 in Game Seven of the series at Madison Square Garden.