School of the Month featuring St. Martin

In October 1924, 10 IHM Sisters enrolled 400 students in grades one through eight at St. Martin of Tours (aka "St. Martin on the Lake") School on the east side of Detroit.

The convent chronicler wrote that, "One week later, although the school still lacked roof, windows, doors and stairways, classes were assembled there. For months the children moved from room to room to accommodate the workmen, and it wasn't until Easter week that the classrooms were finally completed."

High school grades were added in the late 1920s, and by the fall of 1933, 928 students were taught by 16 IHMs and three lay teachers. The athletic program was formalized that year. The
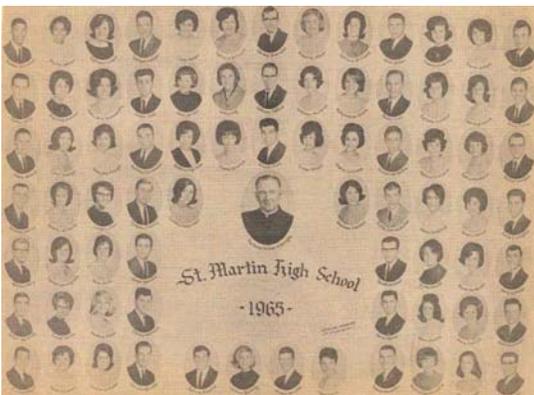

chronicler noted, "While our initial (football) team did not cover itself in glory, it made a very credible attempt and established a reputation for good sportsmanship."

The athletic teams improved over the years, with several city and eastside championships in football, basketball and girls' softball. During the 1947-48 basketball season, **Dick Seagram** ('49) established a Catholic League record with 83 points in one basketball game.

The school newspaper, *Cadet Gazette*, started in the fall of 1960. That same year, **Helen Ingles** (class of '61, now Sister Helen Ingles, IHM, and chief financial officer for the IHM congregation) won a scholarship to Marygrove College, scoring higher than her 220 competitors.

Throughout most of the 1960s, enrollment hovered around 1,000. In 1965, our **featured class year**, senior class officers were **Joseph Murphy**, president; **Colleen Bunting**, vice president (and homecoming queen); **Carol Essian**, secretary; and **Patrick Preston**, treasurer. The St. Martin High School Chorus was part of a 3,000-voice choir during the televised "Detroit Aglow" program. The team of **Joseph Murphy**, **Patrick Preston**, **Joan Jensen** and **Anne White** defeated the St. Francis deSales team on the TV program *Quiz-em-on-the-air*. The girls' volleyball team won the city championship.

The chronicler recorded that on June 2, 1965, the senior picnic was cancelled because of rain. She says that, "many of the students, however, enjoyed the day at Belle Isle in spite of the weather and returned for a short dance in the gym from 3:30-5." Graduation day for the 77 seniors was June 13 "after a beautiful English High Mass."

Because of declining enrollment and a lack of funding, St. Martin High School closed in 1970 and the grade school in 1971. The parish closed in 1989.

Trivia - 1965

Lyndon Johnson was president of the United States; Hubert Humphrey was vice-president. U.S. population was 194,302,963, and Americans had a life expectancy of 70.2 years.

The first United States combat troops arrived in Vietnam. By the end of the year, 190,000 American soldiers were there.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and more than 2,600 others were arrested in Selma, Ala., during demonstrations against voter-registration rules. Malcolm X was shot to death at a Harlem rally.

The Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Minnesota Twins in seven games in the World Series. The Boston Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers in five games for the NBA Championship. In hockey, the Stanley Cup went to the Montreal Canadiens, who defeated the Chicago Blackhawks in seven games.

Winston Churchill, Nat King Cole, T.S. Eliot and Adlai Stevenson died.

"The Girl From Ipanema," by Stan Getz and Astrud Gilberto, received the Record of the Year Grammy. Album of the Year went to *Getz/Gilberto*, Stan Getz and Joao Gilberto; Song of the Year was "Hello, Dolly!," written by Jerry Herman. The Beatles were named Best New Artists.

ABC paid an unprecedented $32 million for a four-year contract with the NCAA to broadcast football games on Saturday afternoons.

Dr. Zhivago, *The Sound of Music* and *A Thousand Clowns* opened in movie theaters. *My Fair Lady* received an Oscar for Best Picture. Rex Harrison was named Best Actor for his role in *My Fair Lady* and Julie Andrews was Best Actress in *Mary Poppins*.