

Featuring St. Gregory School



In 1925, six IHM Sisters began teaching at St. Gregory School in Detroit and, according to the convent chronicler, the IHMs "saw crowds of curious young children, most of whom had never seen a sister before."

Some 300 children had been expected that September, but 425 arrived. Eighth-grade students sat on chairs until late October when additional desks arrived. The first-graders sat on boards set up on box ends. By the following fall, enrollment had increased to 610 children, and a ninth grade was added. An additional grade was added each year until all 12 grades were included. The St. Gregory Alumni Association was formed in November 1930, just months after the first class of seniors graduated. By 1934, 17 IHMs and four lay teachers taught 1,350 pupils in the 12 grades.



Cathy Waring takes a rebound from a St. Agnes player while Judy Brown and Kay Walsh move in to position for a pass.

In spite of the large number of students, the IHM Sisters were involved in the things important to their charges. In 1950, the convent chronicler noted, "Our Football Team was very successful this season, having been able to play in the 'All Detroit Championship Game' & Sorry, our team lost & 7-6." With a 3-3 record in football during the fall of 1957, the chronicler recorded the season with regret. "Many good players left with the Class of 1957 or the total of wins would have been higher."

In [1963](#), our featured class year, enrollment stood at 907 in the 12 grades. Senior Ring Ceremony was held in January, and the chronicler reported that, "A very impressive talk was given by **Eugene O'Malley**, a senior." In April, "**Joseph Leger**, a senior, was one of the top winners in

the Detroit Science Fair & He won third prize in physics." Seniors **Janet Boddy**, **Ronald Baucher**, **Peggy Gerada** and **Joseph Herrick** received a papal blessing from John XXIII. And on June 9, 1963, 62 young adults graduated from St. Gregory High School.

Attendance dwindled over the next few years. The chronicler for the 1968-69 academic year wrote, "St. Gregory School opened on rather a sad note this year

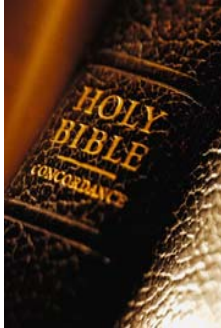


as the predictions look as if it would be the last year for the high school." The high school closed in June 1969.

Trivia

In 1963

There were 15,000 United States military advisers in South Vietnam. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Pope John XXIII died.



The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that no locality may require recitation of the Lord's Prayer or Bible verses in public schools.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.



The first liver transplant was performed by F.D. Moore and T.E. Starzl. Michael E. De Bakey implanted an artificial heart in a human being for the first time.

Beatlemania hit Britain, and the Rolling Stones emerged as the "anti-Beatles."



Tony Bennett's, *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*, won a Grammy as Record of the Year. Vaughn Meader received an Album of the Year Grammy for *The First Family*. *Lawrence of Arabia* won an Oscar for Best Picture. Shirley Booth and Don Knotts both won Emmy Awards for their roles in *Hazel* and *The Andy Griffith Show* respectively.