

Featuring St. Felicitas School



When five IHM Sisters arrived at St. Felicitas School in Chicago in 1924, the convent chronicler optimistically recorded that their new home "gave prospects of being one day respectable. Suffice it to say that the usual pioneer experiences were enjoyed to the utmost."

That year, the sisters taught 132 students in grades one through eight. Enrollment increased rapidly, and by 1928, seven sisters taught 486 students.



In the throes of the Great Depression in 1934, St. Felicitas School hit upon an innovative fund-raiser that became an annual event: the St. Patrick's Day play, which raised \$400 in its first year. Proceeds had tripled by 1945, and the chronicler noted "we gave the pastor a check for \$1,431.88."

Because of the burgeoning student population, a ninth grade was added in 1941, and tenth grade was added in 1942. These grades were dropped at

the end of the 1948-1949 school year to focus on the grade school.

The 1950s and '60s were years of growth for the school, with enrollment usually between 900 and 1,000 students. In 1964, 12 IHM Sisters and seven lay teachers taught the 965 students, including 98 eighth graders. It was the year eighth-grader **Mary Eileen Doyle** won first place in the American Veteran Essay Contest, and her seventh-grade sister Kathy came in third. The number of graduates peaked in 1965, with 107.



The 85 members of our featured class year, 1966, enjoyed Sister Nora Marie Duggan, IHM, (in Room 208) and Sister Dorothy (Marcianna) Joyce, IHM, also known as "Rocky." **Tim Sullivan** and **Rich Rowan** went on to lead productive lives ... even after hijinx such as "borrowing" the teachers' manual for math tests. **Betty Menconi** served as class

matchmaker, and **Lee Hinz** became a trend-setter that year when she was the first in the class to wear go-go boots.

"Anyone who was there in the 1950s and '60s will tell you what a special place it was," says **Rick Stenquist** ('66). "There was an infectious spirit about St. Felicitas that made it truly special."

Subsequent years saw shrinking class sizes and a diminishing IHM presence. The 1986-87 school year was the last that an IHM Sister was principal at St. Felicitas. It closed in 2005.

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In 1966



Lyndon Johnson was president, unemployment was 4.5 percent and the cost of a first-class stamp was a nickel.

The Baltimore Orioles defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers to win the World Series in four games.



"The Fugitive" won an Emmy for "Outstanding Dramatic Series;" the Emmy for "Outstanding Comedy Series" went to "The Dick Van Dyke Show."

Tom Jones was selected as "Best New Artist" during the Grammy Awards, and Roger Miller's "King of the Road" won in the "Best Contemporary (Rock and Roll) Single" category.



Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood" was published, as was Thomas Pynchon's "The Crying of Lot 49."



Walt Disney died.