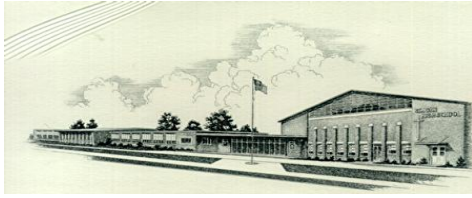


Featuring St. John School-Jackson



Back in 1973, Michigan House Resolution No. 283 paid tribute to St. John - Jackson, as "the oldest continual Catholic School in Michigan."

St. John School opened in 1873 with four IHM Sisters and more than 200 students. The convent chronicler wrote that by 1875, "The number of pupils daily increasing, so it is deemed proper to have a Fifth Sister [sic]."

The burgeoning student body resulted in a new school being built. It opened in 1904, but the following school year, "Almighty God visited the City with an epidemic of smallpox. School did not reopen until Oct. 3," the chronicler reported.

By the 1960-61 school year, the high school had 553 students and 24 IHM Sisters, as well as lay instructors, to teach them.

"My favorite high school teacher was Sister Mary Terence," recalls **Sheila O'Dowd Oatley** ('61). "She seemed to understand that teenagers would eventually grow up. I will remember her as a nun who had faith in us!"



The IHM Sisters were involved in the events important to their students. The convent chronicles share that Nov. 11, 1960, "was a sad day for St. John's. The Duffy Jug left the trophy case after a four year stay when St. Mary's football team vanquished the Gaels in the annual contest."

Mary Jean Schoettle ('61) remembers the IHMs "who touched our lives during our high school years. Sister Hiltrude was our kind, loving principal who had the challenge of advocating for us with the parish pastor. Sister Alice Patricia always had a listening ear. While typing, I frequently think, with gratitude, of Sister Mary Stephen. Sister Carmeline, Sister Marie Aimee, Sister Mary Emmett, Sister Vera,



Sister Mary Terence & I am grateful for their generosity in sharing the gifts of themselves. Thanks to them, the IHM Spirit continues to live in all of us."

On June 4, 1961, 126 students graduated from

St. John. The Class of '61 held its 45th reunion on Sept. 29.

In 1968, St. John and St. Mary High Schools became Lumen Christi High School, enrolling students from six other parishes. In 1971, St. John's seventh and eighth grade students began attending Jackson Catholic Middle School. Grades one through six made up the elementary school from 1971 on. A kindergarten class was added in 1988

In 1961



East Germany erected the Berlin Wall, the United States broke diplomatic relations with Cuba, OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) was formally constituted and 2,000 U.S. military advisers were in South Vietnam.

Harper Lee won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for "*To Kill a Mockingbird.*"



At the Grammy Awards, Bob Newhart was named "Best New Artist," and his album, "*Button Down Mind*" was named "Album of the Year." The "*Theme From Exodus*" was "Song of the Year."

Audrey Hepburn delighted audiences as Holly Golightly in "*Breakfast at Tiffany's.*"

It took six games, but the Chicago Blackhawks defeated the Detroit Red Wings for the Stanley Cup.



Navy Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard, Jr., the first U.S. astronaut, rocketed 116.5 miles up in a 302-mile trip.