

## All Saints School - Detroit



Six IHM Sisters went to All Saints Academy in Detroit in 1917 to teach the 100 children registered in grades one through seven.

The IHM ability to adapt quickly came into play when, as the convent chronicler notes, "...about 100 children came who had not registered before, so it was necessary to open two more rooms." The sisters also adapted to the fact that there was no convent for them – they lived in two of the school rooms for

nearly three years.

Like many parish schools, All Saints added additional grades slowly, but by September 1922, more than 500 students in grades one through 12 were enrolled. The students were active in raising money for the missions and for athletic equipment, as well as for those less fortunate. During the Depression, "...high school girls sponsored a card and Bunco party, at which...food was procured for the poor on Thanksgiving."



In spite of the Depression, though, the basketball and baseball teams were established; classrooms remained full; and the school's fundraising efforts for myriad causes were very successful.

World War II brought some changes to All Saints. Paper sales "furthered the war effort." National Catholic Book Week and Vocation Month began, as did the school's Glee Club. And "Grades 11 and 12 were dismissed to aid in the pre-holiday work, taking places vacated by men called into the service of their country."

By 1945, students could participate on the football, baseball and both boys' and girls' baseball teams, although, as the chronicler notes the following year, "The football team dissolved and most of the baseball

games were rained out."

Innovations abounded in the 1950s. The Mothers' Guild took an active role in the school and directed fundraising activities toward better equipment and more improvements. The basketball team (the Saints) moved to Class C in the Catholic League in 1956; the team won the All-City Championship (a feat the team repeated frequently through the years). Dances, debate teams and the Senior Ring Ceremony were all well-received, and enrollment climbed to nearly 600.



But by the mid-1960s, the enrollment began to drop off – although the basketball teams remained very successful. In fact, during the 1967-68 school year, the team was undefeated and won the state championship.

Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh declared April 10, 1968 “All Saints Day” throughout the city.

All Saints School dropped the first grade in 1968 and the second grade in 1969. Rumors of the school closing began circulating early in 1970, our **Featured Class Year**. By March, it became more than a rumor: All Saints High School would close in June 1970.

The basketball team, with **Dennis Dazsi** and **Maurice Adami** as co-captains, went out with a bang: district champs. The Junior/Senior Prom on May 6 took place at Cobo Hall. Mayor Roman Gribbs declared May 15 All Saints High School Day. **Regina Vokally** was valedictorian for the last graduating class; **Mary LaDuke** was salutatorian. At the final commencement on June 7, the 68 graduates of the Class of 1970 were celebrated by a church “...filled to capacity as friends and relatives gathered for this touching event.”

The school closed June 12, “...and half a century of parochial education was officially terminated.”

## In 1970



Richard Nixon was president of the United States. Spiro Agnew was his vice president. President Nixon lowered the voting age to 18. The average life expectancy in this country was 70.8 years; median household income (in current dollars) was \$8,734. Unemployment was 3.5 percent. A first-class stamp cost six cents.

Rhodesia severed its last tie with the United Kingdom, declaring itself a racially segregated republic.



The U.S. invaded Cambodia. Four students at Kent State University in Ohio were killed and nine wounded by National Guardsmen at a protest against the incursion.

In Vietnam, the worst monsoon to hit the area in six years caused large floods, killed 293, left 200,000 homeless and virtually halted the Vietnam War.



The first Earth Day was held. It was also the year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began.

The Isle of Wight Festival 1970 took place on East Afton Farm off the coast of England. Some 600,000 people attended the largest rock festival of all time.

The Beatles released their 12th and final album, *Let It Be*.



PBS began broadcasting.