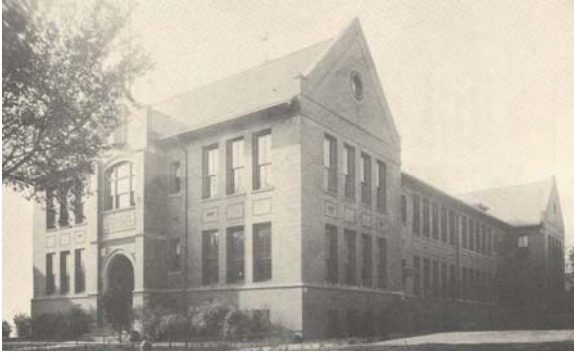


## Featuring Annunciation School - Detroit



Six IHM Sisters were sent from Monroe to open Annunciation School on the east side of Detroit in 1909. They expected 275 children in grades one through eight.

Instead, two additional sisters hastily joined the faculty because 400 students registered. The convent chronicler reports that, "The labor of arranging the order of classes, etc., was rendered easy by the good spirit of the children..."

Annunciation added a ninth grade in 1915, with one additional grade added in subsequent years. More than 1,000 children were attending the school within eight years of its opening.

During World War I, students did their part for the war effort. They joined the junior Red Cross, added a war garden to the school grounds, collected clothes for European relief efforts and raised money. The chronicler says, "The Third Liberty Loan found enthusiastic response among the pupils." Annunciation students contributed more than \$155,000 for the Fourth Liberty Loan Campaign during the 1918-19 school year.



The student population continued to grow, and by September 1921, children had to be turned away. The school was less congested the following year when only children from Annunciation Parish were admitted.

Enrollment remained consistently high – between 800 and 900 students – from the mid-1920s though the 1940s. Following World War II, many families began moving to the suburbs. Even so, Annunciation boasted a student population of more than 600 from the early 1950s on.

During 1961, our **Featured Class Year**, Annunciation welcomed Mother Francis Bernard by giving her a key to the heart of the school. The junior class won the first-ever homecoming float contest. The basketball team (the Cougars) won the East Side City Championship.



"Donkey basketball" was one of the year's big events, as was voting for class officers – **David Thomas** (president), **Mary Brynaert** (vice president), **Patricia Moore** (secretary) and **David Fleury** (treasurer).

Annunciation defeated St. Vincent on the *Quiz 'Em on the Air* program and won a portable television. The junior-senior prom was held at the Whittier Hotel on May 9, with the class picnic on May 25. The 62 members of the Class of 1961 graduated June 11.

Throughout the rest of the 1960s, enrollment dropped slightly, but expenses increased dramatically. As a result of financial difficulties, the parish made the difficult decision to close the high school in June 1967. The grade school closed on June 5, 1969. The chronicler sadly recorded that, "On this day, Annunciation closed its doors for the last time."

## In 1961

The United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.



John F. Kennedy delivered the first live presidential news conference. He also established the Peace Corps that year.

The Vietnam War officially began, as the first American helicopters arrive in Saigon along with 400 U.S. personnel.

Construction of the Berlin Wall began.



The death penalty was abolished in New Zealand.

Carl Jung, Ty Cobb and Chico Marx died.



The Fantastic Four #1 debuted, launching the Marvel Universe and revolutionizing the American comic book industry.

"Barbie" got a boyfriend when the "Ken" doll was introduced.

Harper Lee received the Pulitzer Prize for *To Kill a Mockingbird*



Baseball player Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61<sup>st</sup> home run in the last game of the season, against the Boston Red Sox, beating the 34-year-old record held by Babe Ruth.

The New York Yankees won the World Series in five games with the Cincinnati Reds. The Boston Celtics were NBA Champions when they beat the St. Louis Hawks in five games. The Stanley Cup went to the Chicago Black Hawks after they defeated the Detroit Red Wings in six games.