

## Holy Ghost School – Albuquerque, N.M.

In 1952, Holy Ghost Parish hoped to establish an elementary school, but it wasn't until March 1953, when the IHM Sisters agreed to staff the school, that construction began. In fact, Holy Ghost School was built long before Holy Ghost Church!



Four sisters arrived in August 1953. The building was not finished, so classes for 160 children in grades one through six were held in the parish recreation center. The convent chronicler notes the classrooms had "...white sheet partitions. Bingo tables and camp chairs served as desks." She also mentions that "Having a sixth grade was a late decision; no books had been ordered for that grade."

Luckily, the Adrian Dominican Sisters at Sacred Heart School donated equipment and books for the Holy Ghost sixth-graders. The parish added a seventh grade in 1954, and with nearly 300 students, three additional IHMs were sent west to teach. A new school building was started in March 1955, just in time to accommodate the fall addition of an eighth grade.



With all eight grades in place, the 1955-56 school year was a year of "firsts" for Holy Ghost. The first confirmation class; first May Day procession; and first graduation all took place. The year also saw the establishment of a student council and "grade clubs" – special activities for each grade – began. The school's assembly room did double-duty and was also used for parish Masses.

Throughout the rest of the 1950s, the school organized a sodality and athletic teams; created a library; established a food/toy drive to help those in need during the holidays; and "adopted" a mission priest, raising money to send him.

At its zenith in the early 1960s, some 700 students attended Holy Ghost School. The school held daily Spanish classes (for grades three through eight); children participated in annual science fairs and art exhibits; and all students attended a

weekly physical education class. The Holy Ghost "Eagles" basketball team won several championships.



In 1966, our **Featured Class Year**, 585 students were enrolled. That year, **Nancy Bascek** crowned the Blessed Mother for May Day. **Warren Scott** took first place in a speech and debate competition. **Margaret Ladeau** and **Benjamin Gonzales** placed second. They were coached by **Mr. Madgeson**, who was also one of their homeroom teachers. (**Sister Marie Dolores** was the other eighth-grade teacher. **Mother Ernesta Kennedy** was the school's principal.) The 55 eighth-graders graduated on May 26.

Enrollment at Holy Ghost began dropping in the late 1960s and early 1970s; by 1972, it had fallen to 321. When Sister Jean Morsch, IHM, left as principal in June 1973, the school board hired a non-IHM Sister for the first time.

In 1974, fire gutted Holy Ghost School, which was still being used for parish Masses. Working together, parishioners raised the money to both build the first church and rebuild the school.

Holy Ghost School remains open and active for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

## **In 1966**

The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished the year at 785. The average income per year was \$6,900. The average cost of a new house was \$14,200; the average cost of a new car was \$2,650. Gas was 32 cents per gallon. Medicare began.

Civil rights activist James Meredith was shot while trying to march across Mississippi.

As a result of the case *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court ruled that police officers must inform suspects of their rights before questioning them.

Uniform daylight saving time was first observed in most parts of North America.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in Washington, D.C.

It was a bad year for Los Angeles sports fans. The Dodgers lost the World Series when they were swept by the Baltimore Orioles. The Lakers fared only slightly better – they took the NBA Championship to six games before losing to the Boston Celtics.

The Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup in six games with the Detroit Red Wings.

"I'm a Believer" (the Monkees), "Good Vibrations" (the Beach Boys) and "Wild Thing" (the Troggs) were playing on the radio. Grammy awards went to Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass for "A Taste of Honey" (Record of the Year) and Frank Sinatra for *September of My Years* (Album of the Year).

Popular films included *Dr. Zhivago*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *A Man for All Seasons*.

The first *Star Trek* episode, "The Man Trap," was broadcast. CBS backed out of plans to broadcast *Psycho*, deeming the movie too violent for at-home viewing.