

Featuring Holy Name School



Five IHM Sisters arrived at the convent of Holy Name School, Birmingham, Mich., on Sept. 17, 1928, and they opened the school for 135 children the following day.

"It will be long hence before the five pioneer sisters forget that opening morning," recalled the convent chronicler. At the first school Mass, she noted that "It seemed to the horrified nuns that every act that should not be done in church was being done. It was

very evident indeed that there was much work to be done."

The school grew slowly but steadily, and by the 1933-34 school year, 200 students were



enrolled. The football team was formed that year, and it won all games but one.

By September 1955, the school had grown and required 10 IHM Sisters and four lay staff teachers. The chronicler commented, "There's a poem about 'Gay little children go dancing off to school.*' Whether they came with gaiety and dancing or not, 772 of them arrived today..." Holy Name School achieved 1,000-students status in the fall of 1963.

Holy Name Parish made the decision to remain open following the passage of a proposal denying aid to non-public schools. Tuition increased to \$200 per child or \$600 per family in the parish, and twice that for non-parishioners. The school closed one classroom each in grades one through six; would have fewer teachers and be able to



accommodate fewer students, all as cost-saving measures designed to ensure its viability.

During the featured class year, **1974**, Marietta Murphy, IHM, was principal; school days were 45 minutes longer to allow the 557 students two weeks off at Christmas and Easter and two long weekends during the year; the Dads' Club was formed; and the football team earned a division championship. The Drama Club performed *The Mikado*; and seventh-grade teacher **Nickolas**

Fleezanis was named "Teacher of the Year."

On June 5, 80 students graduated. **Mike McGowan** received the "John Stewart Award," and **Paul Wang** received the "Service Award."

An IHM presence at Holy Name School slowly dwindled through the rest of the '70s, and when Eileen Shaw, IHM, a sixth-grade teacher, died in May 1979, only three IHM Sisters remained. That number had dropped to two by 1983, and although Holy Name remained an important and vital part of the community, the last IHM, Sister Carola Keffler, school secretary, left after the 1989-90 academic year.

Holy Name School is still open for students pre-K through eighth grade.

* Poem by Ivy O. Eastwick

Trivia - 1974

The population of the United States was 213,853,928; life expectancy was 72 years; and unemployment in the U.S. stood at 5.6 percent. OPEC ended the oil embargo begun in 1973.

On July 30, the House Judiciary Committee adopted three articles of impeachment charging President Richard Nixon with obstruction of justice, failure to uphold laws, and refusal to produce material subpoenaed by the committee. Nixon resigned less than two weeks later.

Patti Smith released what is considered to be the first punk rock single, "Hey Joe." Roberta Flack's, "Killing Me Softly With His Song," received a Record of the Year Grammy.

Chinatown, *The Godfather Part II*, *Day for Night*, *Blazing Saddles*, *The Towering Inferno* and *The Sting* were all playing in movie theaters.

People magazine debuted, with Mia Farrow on the cover. The literary scene saw Stephen King's, *Carrie*; Toni Morrison's, *Sula*; Grace Paley's, *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute*; and Robert M. Pirsig's, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, published.

Emmy Awards went to Alan Alda (Best Lead Actor in a Comedy Series), *M*A*S*H*; Mary Tyler Moore (Best Lead Actress in a Comedy Series), *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*; Telly Savalas (Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series), *Kojak*; and Michael Learned (Best Lead Actress in a Drama Series), *The Waltons*.

Miami defeated Minnesota, 24-7, in the Super Bowl; it was the Oakland A's over the Los Angeles Dodgers in five games in the World Series; the Boston Celtics defeated the Milwaukee Bucks in seven games for the NBA Championship; and the Philadelphia Flyers won the Stanley Cup over the Boston Bruins in six games.