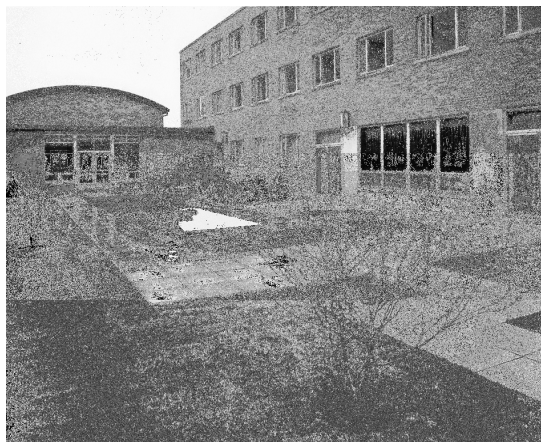


## Featuring Immaculate Heart of Mary High School – Westchester, Ill.



The superintendent of schools for the Chicago Archdiocese invited the IHM Sisters to build an all-girls school in Westchester, Ill. They broke ground for Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) High School in August 1960. The sisters opened IHM with the ninth grade and added one grade per year.

The school was built to serve 1,200 girls. It officially opened for 314 freshman girls and the eight IHM Sisters teaching there on Sept. 14, 1960, however their building was not completed until March 1962. For 18 months, IHM classes were held in a wing of the nearby boys' school, St. Joseph High.



The IHM girls took pride in their school. They raised money to help furnish the school's Chapel and they formed sodality groups, a student council and a library club, all in their first year. The following year, IHM High School held its first science fair; its first school assembly; and the first Drama Club performance (*The Parade at Devil's Bridge*). Hobby clubs, language clubs, a choral group and an orchestra followed during the 1962-63 school year.

Immaculate Heart of Mary High School provided an extraordinary education, both academically and socially. Students participated in fundraising activities that helped the school community, such as establishing a scholarship fund, and contributed to national and global projects. In the mid-60s, they donated funds to the JFK Memorial Library and participated in a Red Cross drive to provide Christmas gifts to Vietnamese children.



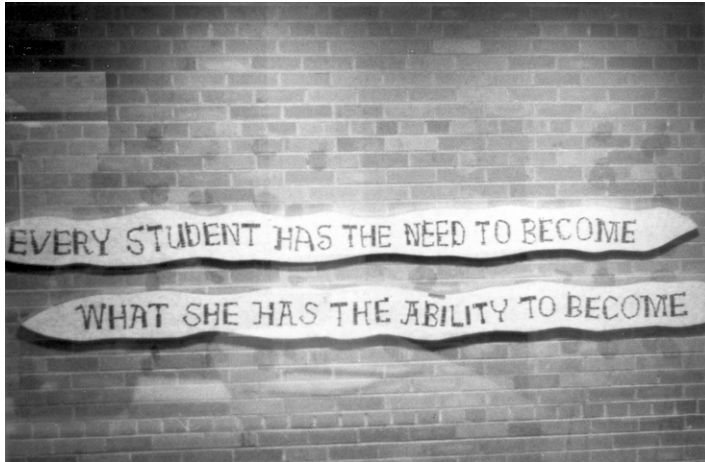
At one point, IHM High School boasted nearly 1,400 students and 42 sisters, but that tapered off in the early 1970s – to a more manageable 1,000 or so.

Extra-curricular activities abounded for IHM students. Girls participated in intramural sports, as well as external athletic competition. They enjoyed the pomp on squad and served as cheerleaders for both their own teams and for the St. Joe's boys' teams. They also enjoyed annual events, such as Dads' Night, Little Sisters' Day, the talent show, Sadie Hawkins Dance and "Fun-o-Rama."

And fund-raising was ongoing. A walk-a-thon in 1978 raised money for extensive repairs on the

aging roof.

The Class of 1980, our **Featured Class Year**, had 12 National Honor Society scholars and eight seniors who were named as Illinois State Scholars. Their class officers included **Nancy Zarkos**, president, and **Eileen McCormack**, vice-president. Students chose blue and silver as their class colors; baby's breath as their class flower and the class song was *The Theme from Mahogany* (which Jane Fitzpatrick sang at Honors Convocation). Valedictorian **Karen Solarz** delivered the closing address at graduation at Hillside Theatre.



Immaculate Heart of Mary High School continued to be a vibrant school, but declining enrollment and enthusiasm for single-gender schools (according to research studies) led to severe financial difficulties. It closed in June 2005. When it closed, more than 6,000 students had graduated throughout its stellar 45-year history.

### In 1980



Ronald Reagan was elected U.S. president. The median American household income (in current dollars) was \$17,710; unemployment stood at 7.1 percent and the cost of a first-class stamp was 15 cents.

Three U.S. nuns and a lay worker were found shot in El Salvador.



*Raging Bull*, *Ordinary People*, *Coal Miner's Daughter* and *The Elephant Man* were playing in movie theaters. The Academy Award for Best Picture went to *Kramer vs. Kramer*. The Doobie Brothers' "What a Fool Believes" won the Record of the Year Grammy Award. *Lou Grant* received an Emmy for Outstanding Drama Series. *Taxi* won for Outstanding Comedy Series.

The Philadelphia Phillies won the World Series in six games against the Kansas City Royals. It was the only successful team from Philadelphia that year. The Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Philadelphia 76ers for the NBA Championship, and the New York Islanders beat the Philadelphia Flyers for the Stanley Cup.



John Lennon was killed in New York City. Ted Turner launched CNN, the first all-news network.