

## Immaculate Heart of Mary School – Minnetonka (Glen Lake), Minn.



In 1952, four IHM Sisters traveled for more than a day by train from Monroe to the little town of Glen Lake, Minn., to open the school for Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

The convent chronicler reports that they found the town "boasts of two grocery stores, a small gas station and a tiny post office...Next door to us is our little tin

church which we believe is the nicest of all tin churches."



The school was still under construction when the academic year began for the 97 children in grades one through six. "We unpacked books and made efforts to tidy up the classrooms for the first day of school... 'shovel up' might be a better expression," according to the chronicler.

The parish added a seventh and eighth grade over the next two years, and with 231 students, IHM added a new wing for the school. Activities such as the glee club, school picnic, book fair, paper sale and smorgasbord dinner were in full-swing. The Mothers' Club

worked with the fifth- and sixth-grade girls to teach them sewing and cooking, and with the boys, teaching crafts and leather-work.



Girls in grades four through eight wore uniforms for the first time in 1955, the same year the boys' basketball team "made a good showing throughout the season and advanced to the finals." Through the rest of the 1950s, IHM School grew and added events such as the May Crowning, the Spring Bazaar, the "Round-Up Tea" for incoming first-graders and their moms, the fundraising magazine drive, and the Christmas play. The school cafeteria opened and eighth-graders formed a student council.

Enrollment ballooned to nearly 600 students by 1963 (the year the city of Glen Lake changed its name to Minnetonka), and gradually declined. In

1969, our **Featured Class Year**, 440 children attended IHM School. The eighth-graders visited the Mayo Clinic on a field trip; held an all-school talent show; started a yearbook and produced a monthly newspaper, *The Triple Treasure*. Part of their academic program had them studying the problems of youth and seeking solutions. The 34 members of the Class of 1969 graduated June 2.



They were the last eighth-grade graduates. IHM consolidated its seventh and eighth grades with St. Joseph and St. John schools, with grades one through six remaining. In 1976, it added a kindergarten.

The parishes of Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph and St. John consolidated in 1995. According to the 1997 IHM Parish Directory, one of the goals was "...to better serve the needs of all grade levels from preschool through grade eight. Known as the John Ireland School, the IHM campus provides instruction for preschool through grade four."

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School was re-established as a single parish school in 2004, accommodating pre-k through grade eight at one location.

## In 1969

Richard Nixon was president of the United States. The U.S. population was 202,676,946; life expectancy was 70.5 years; and the median household income was \$8,389 in current dollars.

Notable "firsts" include Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., walking on the moon; ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) went online, connecting four universities – the foundation upon which the Internet was built; and the first *in vitro* fertilization of a human egg was performed in Cambridge, England.

In August, more than half a million people gathered in the small, upstate New York town of Bethel (near Woodstock) for four days of rain and rock 'n' roll. Performers included Janis Joplin; Jimi Hendrix; The Who; Joan Baez; Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young; Jefferson Airplane and Sly and the Family Stone.

The New York Jets defeated the Baltimore Colts 16-7 to win Super Bowl III. In a stunning upset, the New York Mets won the World Series in five games over the Baltimore Orioles. The Boston Celtics won the NBA Championship over the Los Angeles Lakers in seven games, and the Montreal Canadiens swept the Stanley Cup series over the St. Louis Blues. It was the Blues' third straight trip to the finals and the third straight year they lost in four games.

Americans were watching TV shows such as *Get Smart*, *Hogan's Heroes*, *Mission: Impossible* and *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In*. They read Mario Puzo's, *The Godfather*, and Kurt Vonnegut's, *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

At the Grammy Awards, "Mrs. Robinson," by Simon and Garfunkel, won Record of the Year. Album of the Year went to *By the Time I Get to Phoenix*, by Glen Campbell; and Bobby Russell's "Little Green Apples" was named Song of the Year.

*Oliver!* received a Best Picture Oscar. Cliff Robertson, in *Charly*, was named Best Actor, and the Best Actress Oscar was a tie between Katharine Hepburn (*The Lion in Winter*) and Barbra Streisand (*Funny Girl*).