

Featuring St. Matthew School – Flint, Mich.



school building began.

When the first five IHM Sisters arrived at St. Matthew School in Flint Mich., in 1914, they spent several weeks at nearby St. Michael because the convent at St. Matthew wasn't ready for them. They opened St. Matthew for the 120 children in grades one through eight Sept. 5.

The parish added a ninth grade in 1915 and an additional high school grade in each of the next three years. The first graduating class was 1919. That year work on a new



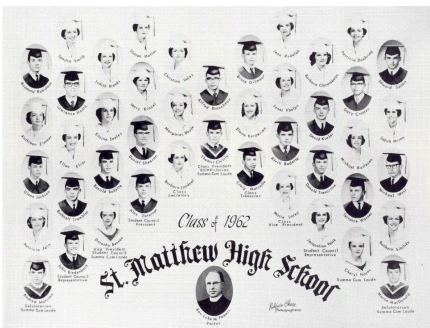
The new building wasn't finished when school opened in September 1920, but the eight sisters and 375 students remained flexible, holding classes "in the church basement until the upper floor of the school was ready," according to the convent chronicler. The new building included a gymnasium, "the scene of many lively basketball games, the chief one being with the Benton Harbor boys who met their defeat in a gentlemanly way."

During the Great Depression, the sisters were committed to educating their students, both academically and socially. As a result, "the children did much to help the needy by bringing clothing and food. At Christmas, especially, they gave generously to help fill baskets given out..."



Throughout the 1940s, the school grew, and by the early 1950s, more than 600 youngsters were enrolled. High school students made a Christmas crib for Flint City Hall in 1952. They wanted "to put 'Christ' back in 'Christmas.'" Their display was so well received, it "was again given a prominent position on the lawn of the City Hall" the following year.

The convent chronicler often highlighted school sports. She reports one year that the football team tied with archrival St. Michael and the baseball team became Parochial League Champs. Some seasons were better than others. During 1958-59, for instance, the football team did well, but "...basketball was bad...baseball not so good, golf – very good."



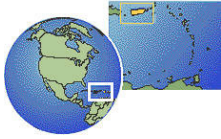
During our **Featured Class Year**, 1962, St. Matthew had an enrollment of 515, with 11 IHM Sisters. Students had a variety of extracurricular activities available, including choral, band, the pep club and, of course, sports.

The basketball team won the state Class D championship, beating Brimley 60-52. The team received a key to the city. **Alex Peterson** crowned the statue of the Blessed Mother at the annual May crowning. **Tom Chittle** and **John Biedenbach** attended him. The 44 seniors graduated on June 3.

Beginning in 1966, parishioners and diocesan officials began planning a central Catholic high school to consolidate the eight Catholic schools in Flint. The Development Fund Committee, charged with raising \$7 million for the project, recommended that the school be named for the Rev. Luke Powers, who had just retired after 37 years as pastor of St. Matthew. Seven of the eight schools closed in June 1970. High school students attended Luke Powers, which remains open and active.

In 1962

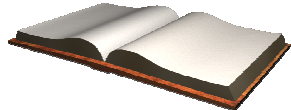
Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council. It was also the year he excommunicated Cuba's Fidel Castro.



Puerto Rico became a commonwealth of the United States.

The first transatlantic television transmission occurred via the Telstar Satellite, making worldwide television and cable networks a reality.

Johnny Carson began hosting *The Tonight Show*.



Silent Spring (Rachel Carson), *In the Clearing* (Robert Frost), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Ken Kesey) and *The Colossus and Other Poems* (Sylvia Plath) were published.

West Side Story received a Best Picture Oscar. John Steinbeck received the Nobel Prize for Literature



Dayton Hudson Corporation opened the first of its Target discount stores in Roseville, Minn.



Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr. became the first American to orbit Earth three times, in just under five hours.

The New York Yankees won the World Series, beating the San Francisco Giants in seven games. It took the Boston Celtics seven games with the Los Angeles Lakers to win the NBA Championship. The Stanley Cup went to the Toronto Maple Leafs, after they defeated the Chicago Black Hawks in six games.



The Beatles' first record, "My Bonnie," was released by Polydor.

Rosie O'Donnell, Jim Carrey, Paula Abdul and Jon Stewart were born.

William Faulkner, E. E. Cummings, Eleanor Roosevelt and Marilyn Monroe died.