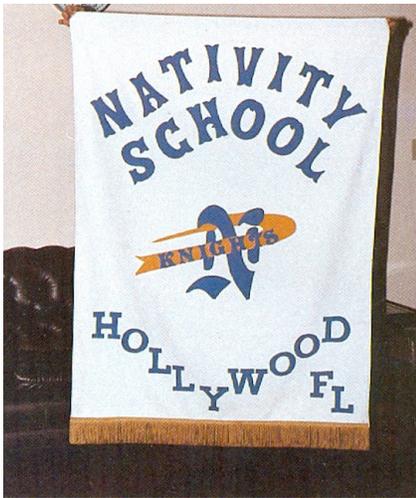


Nativity School – Hollywood, Fla.



When the IHM Sisters arrived in Hollywood, Fla., in 1961 to staff Nativity School, things were not what they expected.

They had no convent. Pastor Hugh Flynn asked the Jacques family to move out of their home so the sisters could use it, and the family graciously agreed. Additionally, "When September arrived, it found Nativity School barely started in the beautiful wilderness of Hollywood Hills, Fla.," according to the convent chronicler.

Chaminade, the local Catholic boys' high school, lent the fledgling Nativity classroom space. The chronicler commented that "School opened a whole week ago with an enrollment of 230 of the sweetest children in the U.S. but also the most pagan! They are woefully lacking in religious training..."

The parish planned to open one grade per year, and by 1965, 617 students were enrolled in grades one through eight. Even with 10 classrooms in the school, Nativity continued to rent space at Chaminade, using four rooms for boys in grades three through six. The band, choir and sports program were up and running – the basketball team ended the season in second place – and traditions such as the May procession were established.

Nativity School was remodeled in 1967 to accommodate all the students. With additional space came a school library, tutoring programs (in conjunction with Chaminade) and Nativity Junior Theater. The Nativity "Knights" expanded the athletic program to include baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, track and cheerleading.

Students participated in the annual parish carnival, science and art fairs and career days; collected clothing and toys for those in need and raised money for the school during their summer vacations. They also decorated a school Christmas tree in the local mall that "compared favorably with the others on display..."



Mr. James Kane and **Miss Claudia Berman** were the homeroom teachers for the Class of 1975, our **Featured Class Year**. **Sister Donna Marie Schroeder, IHM**, was Nativity's principal. Tuition ranged from \$302 for one child up to \$726 for a family. In November, the eighth-graders attended a social in the parish hall ("dancing and eating!" noted the chronicler); went to the planetarium for a science lecture; saw the play *1776* at the Sea Ranch Theatre; and participated in the March of Dimes Walk-a-thon. The 81 members of



the Class of 1975 graduated June 6 at 7 p.m. Mass, which was followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Enrollment gradually began to decline, although the parish offered an incentive to parents. "Those families who use the Nativity Church envelopes every Sunday will receive a \$100 discount on tuition."

Nativity School weathered the decline, and although the last IHM Sister left in the 1990s, the school remains open and active for grades Pre-K2 through eight.

In 1975

The city of Saigon was surrendered and remaining Americans were evacuated, ending the Vietnam War.

United States President Gerald Ford escaped two assassination attempts in 17 days. ABC, CBS and NBC agreed to create a "family hour," an early evening time slot, free of violence and sex. *Saturday Night Live* premiered on NBC. George Carlin hosted the first show.

Home videotape systems (VCRs) were developed by Sony (Betamax) and Matsushita (VHS).

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest swept the top Oscars, winning Best Picture, Director, Actor and Actress. During the Emmy Awards, Robert Blake was Best Actor in a Drama Series for his role in *Baretta*. Valerie Harper was named Best Actress in a Comedy Series for *Rhoda*.

Drew Barrymore, Eva Longoria and David Beckham were born. Susan Hayward, Aristotle Onassis and Ozzie Nelson died.

Record of the Year was "I Honestly Love You," by Olivia Newton-John. Album of the Year went to Stevie Wonder's *Fulfillingness' First Finale* and Song of the Year was "The Way We Were," by Marilyn and Alan Bergman and Marvin Hamlisch.