

## Our Lady Star of the Sea School – Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.



Four IHM Sisters opened Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., in 1955 for 90 first- and second-graders, months before ground was actually broken for the school.

The sisters taught in “the Club Room” adjoining the church, according to the convent chronicler. Classes were cancelled the second day of school, “due to the lack of chairs” for the children. Luckily, Star of the Sea was able to borrow 50 folding chairs from a nearby school.

Ground was broken for the school building Jan. 1, 1956. The chronicler notes, “March 24: Ceremony is certainly not in style at Star of the Sea. This morning, Sister Rose Marie received a hurry up call to go over with Father Barton and lay the cornerstone...”

The building was quickly constructed and the school expanded in subsequent years. With an addition of a ninth grade, the all-girls high school started in 1959. Over the next three years, the parish added grades 10, 11 and 12.



Star of the Sea was very active, donating Christmas boxes for people in need at Holy Trinity Parish and raising money for a variety of causes. The school also created its own traditions, such as “Moms’ Night” and “coketail parties” before proms, “Spirit Week” and the fall classic “powder puff football” game, in which the high school girls competed against other area girls’ schools. (The chronicler mentions that in the 1965 game, “Regina won through legality.”) Enrollment grew to nearly 1,000 in grades one through 12 by the mid-1960s.

In the high school, the girls enjoyed extra-curricular activities such as student council, yearbook, the foreign relations club and the swim team.



As the 1960s and early 1970s progressed, fewer IHM Sisters were available to teach. By the 1970-71 school year, there were no IHMs in the high school and only five in the grade school. Over the next 10 years, that number dwindled to two.

Our Lady Star of the Sea School, however, continued to grow. A kindergarten was added in 1977, and the high school remained very active. During 1987, **Our Featured Class Year**, proceeds from the annual Mardi Gras funded senior graduation. **Anne Rapas** received the Lux Et Amour award, the school’s highest honor. Although most of the athletic teams, the Star of the Sea Tunas, were only marginally successful, the junior varsity basketball team placed first in its division, and

the varsity volleyball team was named Catholic League Champions. The seniors graduated May 17.

Declining enrollment took its toll on the high school though, and it is now closed. The elementary school remains open for students pre-kindergarten through grade eight.

## In 1987



The United States Supreme Court ruled Rotary Clubs must admit women.

Prozac made its debut in the United States.

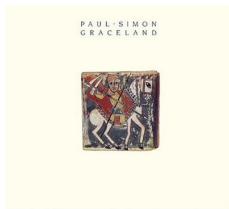
Liberace, Andy Warhol, Fred Astaire and Jackie Gleason all died.



During a visit to Berlin, Germany, U.S. President Ronald Reagan challenged Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.

*The Simpsons* cartoon first appeared on The Tracy Ullman Show.

The New York Giants won the Super Bowl, defeating the Denver Broncos 39-20.



Grammy awards went to "Higher Love," Steve Winwood, for Record of the Year; Paul Simon's *Graceland* for Album of the Year; and "That's What Friends Are For," written by Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager, for Song of the Year. *L.A. Law* won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Drama Series, and *The Golden Girls* won for Outstanding Comedy Series.