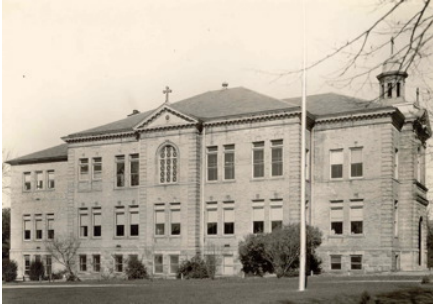


Featuring SS. Peter and Paul School – Ionia, Mich.



Three IHM Sisters opened SS. Peter and Paul School in 1871 for 60 children in grades one through eight. The sisters were recalled to Monroe three years later. The school was run by lay people for several years until the Sisters of Christian Charity took over.

In 1904, the pastor approached Bishop John Foley of Detroit to request that the IHM Sisters return to the school. The bishop gave his assurance the sisters would be back. So, in the fall of 1904, six IHMs taught the school's 175 children. The convent chronicler reports that, "Enrollment was very gratifying to the

Rev. Pastor, who required all pupils, including the eighth grade, to return from the public schools."

A high school was added in the early "19-teens," and by 1922, the school had an enrollment of 301. The start of the Depression took its toll on the school. The chronicler records, "The population of Ionia has decreased by 3,000, and the effect is quite marked on the school." As the economy tightened, "A parish drive was inaugurated, the purpose of which was to secure money to pay the sisters' salary."

SS. Peter and Paul was a small school, but steeped in tradition. The school year always opened with Mass. Christmas pageants, annual musicals, class plays and a junior/senior banquet were long-standing customs. Newer traditions included blessing the senior class rings (which started with the Class of '56) and an annual honors convocation (1963).



By our **Featured Class Year**, 1968, the 97 high school students enjoyed extracurricular activities that included debate and forensics, art and student council. The chronicler notes, "The students elected an all-men slate of officers for the Student Council. However, both girls and boys were elected as class representatives."

After seven years without basketball or baseball teams, both were re-established. "We also had the appropriate cheerleading teams which performed very well on every occasion," says the chronicler. The seniors staged a production of *You Can't Take it With You*. On June 3, the freshmen gave the seniors a graduation breakfast. The

same day, at 7:30 p.m., and led by class officers **John Hogan**, president; **Linda Mooney**, vice-president; **Dona Nolan**, secretary; and **Bruce Patton**, treasurer, the 26 members of SS. Peter and Paul's class of 1968 graduated.



At the close of the 1968-69 school year, the high school closed, and the IHM Sisters who taught there were missioned elsewhere. The chronicler mentions that, as a result of the closing, the parish was "able to use many of the (high school) facilities and thus enhance our elementary school program."

The IHM Sisters left SS. Peter and Paul School in June 1972; however, it remains open and active.

In 1968



The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended the year at 943. The federal debt stood at \$368.7 billion. The average cost of a new house was \$14,950. The average annual income was \$7,850. Gasoline sold for 34 cents per gallon. The first Big Mac went on sale in McDonalds. It cost 49 cents.

Delegations from the United States and North Vietnam began peace talks in Paris.



National "Turn in Your Draft Card Day" was observed with rallies and protests on college campuses throughout the country.

Martin Luther King Jr. and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated.

Amniocentesis was developed.



London Bridge was sold for more than \$2 million. It was dismantled and reconstructed in Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

The "Truth in Lending Act" was passed to protect consumers during credit transactions.

The motion picture rating system debuted with G, PG, R and X.

Emmy Awards went to Werner Klemperer for his role as Col. Klink in *Hogan's Heroes* and Marion Lorne, "Aunt Clara" on *Bewitched*.



The Detroit Tigers beat the St. Louis Cardinals in seven games to win the World Series.