

Sacred Heart School – Auburn Heights, Mich.



Sacred Heart School in Auburn Heights, Mich., opened in 1960 with two IHM Sisters and 95 children in grades one through four.

The school had no convent of its own, so the two sisters stayed in Pontiac – first at St. Vincent and later at St. Frederick convents – and they drove to Sacred Heart each day. The Sacred Heart Altar Society bought the sisters a new car to make things a little easier for them. The sisters moved into their own convent in March 1963.

The school grew quickly. Fifth and sixth grades were added in 1961; seventh grade in 1962; and eighth grade in 1963. The parish built an addition to accommodate all the children – three new classrooms, a library and an administrative wing.



The addition was not without its headaches, however. According to the convent chronicler, "Mother Dolora and Mrs. Ferrand...got locked in the office waiting room... Many of the new locks needed oiling."

In 1965, enrollment stood at 299 in grades one through eight. School enhancements continued. The Dad's Club gave a TV for classroom instruction and also installed new playground equipment. Playground

duty became "a real pleasure," the chronicler notes. 1965 was also the year the church installed a new sign out front. "This was a much-needed item. Some people thought we were a Lutheran establishment."



Sacred Heart School flourished. Federal funding meant the school had a speech pathologist. The basketball team won trophies; outdoor physical education classes began – "each grade had one-half hour on Wednesdays" – and the women of the parish held a Christmas card sale to buy the sisters a new car.

Our **Featured Class Year**, 1967, saw 344 students, five IHM Sisters and four lay teachers at Sacred Heart. Sister Dolora was their principal, and Sister Emerentia was the homeroom teacher for the 38 eighth-graders. The Dad's Club bought a mobile science lab.

It was a year of bad weather, to the chronicler's delight. "Snowbound!" she writes several times, and "No school! Icy roads!" She also proudly records that "Today our

school contributed eight bushel baskets [of food] to St. Patrick's in Detroit as a Christmas gift."

Graduation took place June 9 at a 7 p.m. Mass, with a reception following.

By 1968, Sacred Heart Parish was concerned about the potential lack of state funding for parochial schools, although a first-rate education and extra-curricular activities continued. Girls' basketball, boys' basketball and football, the Pep Club, school newspaper (*The Sacred Heart Courier*), student talent show, the eighth-grade play were all part of school life until the school closed in 1971.

In 1967



The minimum wage in the United States was increased to \$1.40 an hour. The Dow ended the year at 905. Gas cost 33 cents per gallon and a ticket to the movies cost \$1.25.

Detroit's civil disturbance lasted five days; 43 people were killed and 342 were injured.



U.S. astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee were killed when fire broke out in their Apollo 1 spacecraft during a launch pad test.

Rolling Stone and *New York Magazine* debuted, spawning the popularity of special-interest and regional magazines. Congress created PBS.

Super Bowl I was held Jan. 15, 1967 at Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles in front of 61,946 fans. The Green Bay Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Spencer Tracy, Woody Guthrie, Langston Hughes and John Coltrane died.

Dr. Christiaan N. Barnard and a team of South African surgeons performed the world's first successful human heart transplant. The patient died 18 days later.



The Monkees received an Emmy for Outstanding Comedy Series, and *Mission: Impossible* was named Outstanding Dramatic Series. Frank Sinatra's "Strangers in the Night" won a Grammy for Record of the Year. *Sinatra: A Man and His Music* won an Album of the Year Grammy, and Song of the Year went to "Michelle," by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. *A Man for All Seasons* received a Best Picture Oscar.

