

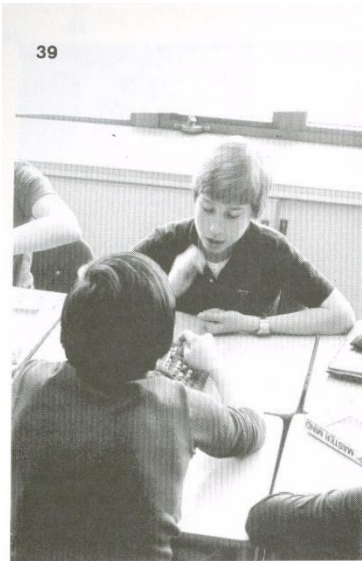
## St. Bede School – Southfield, Mich.



St. Bede Parish began in 1954, but the school didn't open until 1957 when three IHM Sisters came to teach the 110 children in grades one through three.

The school added grades five and six in 1958 and grade seven in 1959. When all eight grades were in place in 1960, school activities took off.

Altar boys participated in the investiture of Knights of the Altar; the school held its first science fair; and the first class of eighth-graders graduated, establishing such traditions as the class day picnic and breakfast following graduation for the students and their parents. But by far, one of the most exciting events was the ground-breaking for a new six-room addition to the school.



The addition came just in time; enrollment was up to 535 by 1961. Spanish was added to the curriculum for the sixth grade; the annual eighth-grade retreat began; and the parish began building a new convent for the sisters.

The following school year, "St. Bede Library was officially opened during Catholic Book Week in February," according to the convent chronicler. The Dads' Club was organized, and creating basketball teams for both boys and girls as well as installing playground equipment.

Enrollment continued to climb, and by 1966, more than 900 children attended St. Bede. Those active and creative minds worked together and took first place in originality in the "Keep Southfield Beautiful" parade. The following year, 1967, saw groundbreaking for a new

church, as well as additions to the administration and school buildings.




By 1970, our **Featured Class Year**, the school library contained more than 3,400 books. The Dads' Club provided more playground equipment and purchased basketball equipment for the gym. The cheerleaders competed against 28 other junior high school cheer teams and placed in the top eight; seventh-graders reforested a large piece of farm land at Pontiac Lake State Park; and students held a box lunch auction to raise money for school science materials.

Graduation for the Class of 1970 took place at 6:45 p.m. on June 11. The theme was "Coming together is a beginning; working together is

progress; staying together is success." Following the ceremony, the graduates enjoyed a dance in the school gym.

The IHM Sisters left St. Bede in 1979, however not before the Mothers' Club was formed (1974) or the football team enjoyed a championship season. Both the school and church are now closed.

### **In 1970**

 Richard Nixon was president of the United States, and he lowered the voting age to 18. The average life expectancy in this country was 70.8 years; median household income (in current dollars) was \$8,734. Unemployment was 3.5 percent. A first-class stamp cost six cents.

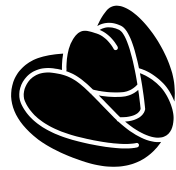
The Isle of Wight Festival 1970 took place on East Afton Farm off the coast of England. Some 600,000 people attend the largest rock festival of all time.

The Beatles released their 12th and final album, *Let It Be*.



The U.S. invaded Cambodia. Four students at Kent State University in Ohio were killed and nine wounded by National Guardsmen at a protest against the incursion.

*M\*A\*S\*H*, *Patton*, *Love Story* and *Airport* were all big at the box office.



*Midnight Cowboy* won the Best Picture Oscar, the first and only time an X-rated movie received the honor. An Outstanding New Series Emmy went to *Room 222*. The 5th Dimension received a Record of the Year Grammy for "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In."