

Featuring St. Charles School – Newport, Mich.



In August 1914, four IHM Sisters traveled just a few miles north from Monroe to St. Charles School in Newport. School started Sept. 9, with 62 children in eight grades.

By 1916, the convent chronicler reports “a notable increase of pupils,” who worked hard to make their school even better. They “gave an entertainment for the benefit of the school. Net proceeds amounted to \$89.”

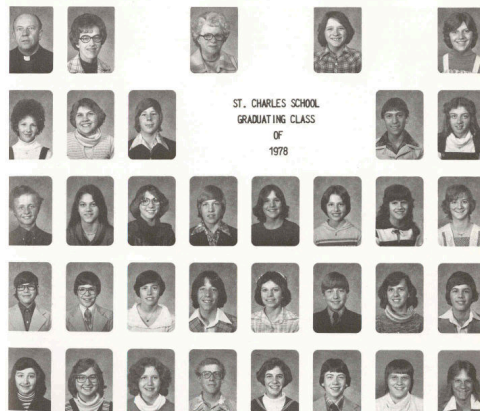
As enrollment increased, the parish added a ninth grade in 1920. In January 1923, a fire destroyed the school building. Rebuilding began as soon as weather permitted, and by fall the new school was ready, this time with five IHMs and students in grades one through 12.



The 11th and 12th grades were eliminated in 1931, and the ninth and 10th grades in 1944. Even without the high school classes, St. Charles had more than 250 students by the early 1950s, and more than 300 by the mid-1960s. Enrollment was so high, several classrooms accommodated double grades. With almost palpable relief, the chronicler notes that, “Plans for a new four-room school are in the offing.” The new school opened in February 1967.

By 1967, students were so busy, their physical education program took place on the playground during lunch because there was no time during the school day! The late '60s and early '70s were years of change. The school's hot lunch program began. Both the football team and the girls' basketball team were CYO champions. A student advisory board was elected for the first time, and individualized math was worked into the academic program for grades four through eight.

Sister Barbara Weigand, IHM, was principal for the 1977-78 school year. The 31 eighth-graders – class of 1978, our Featured Class Year – sponsored a rummage sale to raise money for a trip to Cedar Point. The school enjoyed two snow days in early January. They had been back at school for just a few weeks when the region was pounded by “the blizzard of '78.” School closed from Jan. 26-Feb. 3, and St. Charles Hall was used as a shelter for stranded motorists and people without heat at home.



The annual school spelling bee was postponed that year because the mother of one of the student participants died. When it was held a few weeks later, the student, Suzanne Johnson, won. The eighth-graders sponsored an Easter egg hunt for grades one through four. They showed remarkable flexibility by holding the hunt in the lower hall because it rained. The Class of '78's long-awaited trip to Cedar Point took place May 24. The students graduated June 5.

The last IHM Sister left St. Charles after the 1980-81 school year. The school remains open for students pre-kindergarten through grade eight.

In 1978



The average cost of new house in the United States was \$54,800; the average annual income was \$17,000. Unemployment was 6.1 percent. The cost of a first-class stamp was 13 cents. The Dow closed the year at 805.



Pope Paul VI died at age 80. The new pope, John Paul I, 65, died after 34 days in office and was succeeded by Pope John Paul II.

Richard Nixon published his memoirs. John Irving's *The World According to Garp* was published.



The Camp David Accords for peace in the Middle East were signed by Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin after 13-day conference at Camp David led by President Jimmy Carter.



Balloon angioplasty was developed to treat coronary artery disease. Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby, was born at Oldham Hospital in London.

Grammy Awards went to the Eagles for "Hotel California" (Record of the Year); Fleetwood Mac for *Rumours* (Album of the Year) and "Love Theme From A Star Is Born" (Song of the Year).

In Super Bowl XII, the Dallas beat the Denver Broncos 27-10 at the Louisiana Super Dome



in New Orleans. It was the first Super Bowl game played in a domed stadium. The New York Yankees were World Series champions after defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers four games to two. The Montreal Canadiens played six games against the Boston Bruins before winning the Stanley Cup. The Washington Bullets defeated the Seattle SuperSonics four games to three for the NBA Championship.