

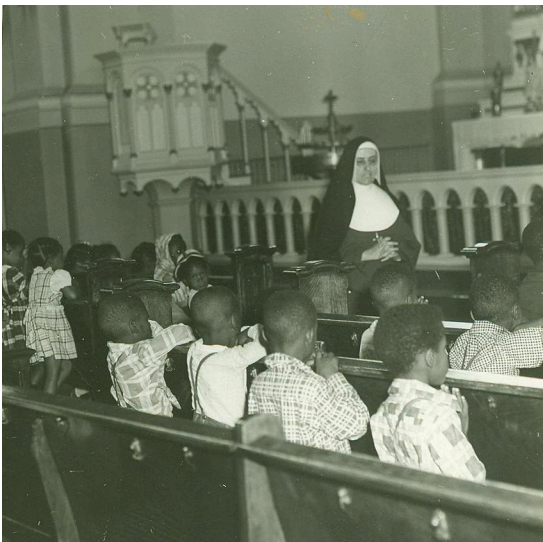
St. George School – Detroit



St. George School in Detroit was closed from 1947 to 1950, when two IHM Sisters arrived to reopen it for grades one through four for the neighborhood children of all faith traditions.

Only five of the families of the 109 students enrolled that first September were Catholic. All – Catholic and non-Catholic alike, received religious instruction and attended Mass. In fact, parents had to agree to attend Sunday Mass (and make sure their children did too) and to receive weekly religious instruction as a condition of their children's enrollment. Nine

children were baptized by the end of the school year.



Evangelization continued, and by 1952, 25 percent of the 139 students in grades one through five were Catholic. St. George School added a sixth grade the following year to accommodate 189 children. Uniforms were instituted, and fundraisers to help finance school improvements began.

The children had come to St. George from the nearby public schools and they quickly learned the behavioral expectations the sisters had for them. The convent chronicler reports that "Sister Beata Marie and her class took a sightseeing tour to the Children's Museum. The guide who took the group admired the conduct of the pupils. Little did he know what preceded..."

St. George was in a rough part of the city. Children told their IHM teachers about murders, beatings and burglaries in the neighborhood. The chronicler reports, "Chili Mack Gang came into the yard. Trouble." And "Knifing right in our yard. The open knife was thrown when the cops arrived."



To keep youngsters off the streets, the church basement was used as a recreation center. Hundreds of children enjoyed skating parties, which "...tires them out so when they leave here, they are not bound for trouble."

Seventh and eighth grades were added, and by the late 1950s, more than 42 percent of the students were Catholic. During 1960, our **Featured Class Year**, enrollment stood at 158. St. George School received a "no accidents" safety banner from the Detroit Police Department. "A committee on decent literature was formed," the chronicler notes.

"**Sarah Bickham** crowned Our Lady [during the annual May Crowning] and the other eighth grade girls formed a guard of honor." A rummage sale that year raised \$265 to pay for a new duplicator. Grades five through eight went to Edgewater Amusement Park. "All the children had a

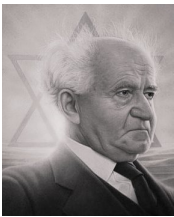
wonderful time and were a credit to their school." Three eighth-graders were baptized during the school year. Graduation for the 17 eighth-graders took place June 12 at the 9 a.m. Mass.



The school continued to flourish until the Chrysler Freeway project closed the school, church, rectory and convent in the summer of 1964. The last graduation was June 8, 1964, and demolition of all the buildings began just a few weeks later.

In 1960

Life expectancy in the United States was 69.7 years. Some 70 million people watched the presidential debate between Sen. John F. Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon.

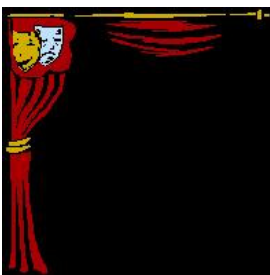


Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion announced that Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann had been captured.

It took seven games, but the Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the New York Yankees for the World Series championship. In an all-Canadian Stanley Cup match, the Montreal Canadiens swept the Toronto Maple Leafs in four games.



The United States launched the first weather satellite, TIROS-1.



The Fantasticks, the world's longest-running musical, opened at New York City's Sullivan Street Playhouse where it would play for 42 years.

Allen Drury won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction with *Advise and Consent*. Jane Wyatt earned the Outstanding Performance By an Actress in a Series for her role in *Father Knows Best*.

Emily Post and Clark Gable died. Daryl Hannah, Bono and Kenneth Branagh were born.