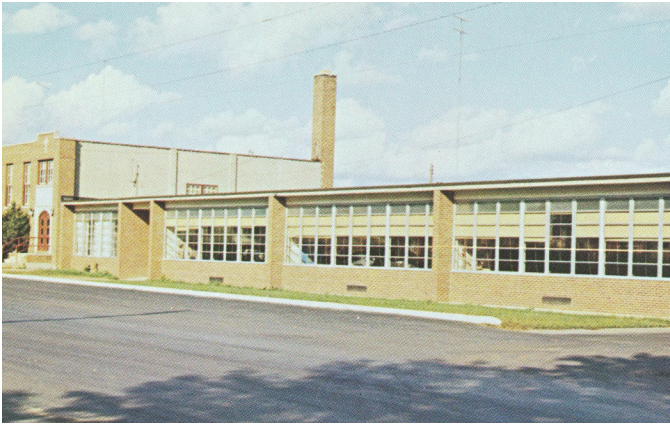


St. John School – Fenton, Mich.



St. John Parish, in Fenton, Mich., was established in 1868 but it was another 82 years (1950) before its school became a reality, with four IHM Sisters and 184 students in grades one through eight.

"Thirteen children had to be refused admittance because of the crowded conditions," says the convent chronicler. "As this was the first year of the school's existence, extracurricular activities were rather limited...nothing spectacular was accomplished."

That soon changed. The school added a ninth grade in 1951. A student council formed, and boys' basketball and baseball and girls' softball teams became part of the extracurricular activities.



The ninth grade was dropped the following year because of space limits, but the school expanded in other ways, adding bike racks, a piano and furniture in the music room, 30 new desks and 700 library books. Through paper drives, card sales and dance classes, students raised money for the school's audio visual equipment.

Enrollment had grown to 219 by 1953. A football team formed, and during the second semester of the 1953-54 school year, girls were required to wear uniforms. In September

1954, "Because of large numbers and lack of class room [sic] it was arranged to have double sessions," the chronicler notes. Odd-numbered grades attended classes in the morning, and even-numbered grades attended during the afternoon. This was reversed for the second semester.



The pledges from a parish drive to build a new school exceeded the goal by about \$50,000. Construction of a new convent and school was completed in 1955 – for \$106,000.

St. John School experimented again with a ninth grade in 1956, but it too only lasted a year.

In 1963, our **Featured Class Year**, enrollment stood at 419 students in grades one through eight. They were taught by six IHM Sisters and two lay teachers, with Mother M. Theodine Henning, IHM, teaching the eighth-graders. **Linda Reuther** was chosen to crown the statue

of Mary in May "because she had the highest religion percentage among the girls." **Lynn Francis** and **Gloria Schuler** were the attendants. "These same girls had been in the crowning group in the first grade," observes the chronicler, "and students carried lilies as a symbol of their purity." Students went to Walled Lake for their class picnic. The 49 eighth-graders graduated at a 7:30 p.m. ceremony in church.



Groundbreaking for a new church began in October 1964. It was dedicated in April 1966.

Throughout the 1960s, enrollment fluctuated between 400-450 students. Mother Theodine left in June 1968, and Sister Janet Sullivan, IHM, became principal. The chronicler noted that the May crowning of 1970 was in accordance with the wishes of Vatican II: "No crown was placed on the statue...The program lost some of its effect because the weather was very cold and windy."

The IHM Sisters continued to minister at St. John until June 1975 when Carol (Irene) Reddy, IHM, resigned as principal. She was replaced by Patricia Fisher, OP. St. John School remains open for students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

In 1963



An American's life expectancy was 69.9 years; unemployment stood at 5.5 percent; and the cost of a first-class stamp was 5 cents.

Dr. Michael E. De Bakey implanted an artificial heart in a human for first time.

France and West Germany signed treaty of cooperation, ending four centuries of conflict.

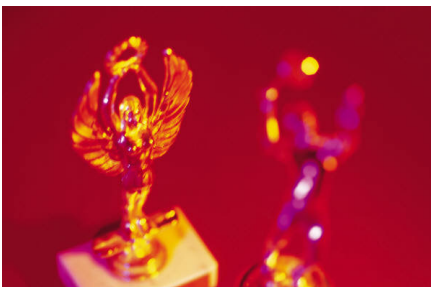


Pope John XXIII died and was succeeded by Cardinal Montini, who became Paul VI.

A Washington-to-Moscow "hot line" communications link opened. It was designed to reduce the risk of an accidental war.

The Los Angeles Dodgers swept the World Series over the New York Yankees. The Los Angeles Lakers lost the NBA Championship to the Boston Celtics in six games. The Stanley Cup went to the Toronto

Maple Leafs when they defeated the Detroit Red Wings after five games.



The Best Picture Oscar went to *Lawrence of Arabia*. Tony Bennett's "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" was the Record of the Year during the Grammy Awards. *The First Family* by Vaughn Meader won the Album of the Year Grammy. *The Dick Van Dyke Show* won Emmy Awards for Outstanding Program Achievement in the Field of Humor, Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Comedy and Outstanding Writing Achievement in Comedy

Betty Friedan's, *The Feminine Mystique*, Sylvia Plath's, *The Bell Jar*, and Charles M. Schulz's, *Happiness is a Warm Puppy*, were published and widely read.