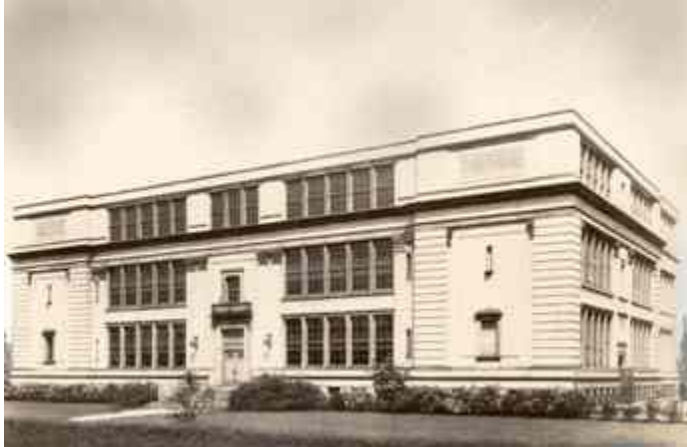


Featuring St. Mary School, Akron, Ohio



In 1908, seven IHMs made the long trip from Monroe, Mich., to Akron, Ohio, to staff St. Mary School.

The convent chronicler reported that, "School opened with a large attendance of pupils," and enrollment continued to grow. By 1910, there were so many children in each class that the chronicler described a situation where there were "too many to permit first-class work on the part of teacher or pupil."

High school classes were added in 1915, which added to the burgeoning student population. To accommodate them, the school stopped accepting students who were not from the parish, "thus eliminating all tuition pupils," the chronicler wrote with some regret in 1929.

The St. Mary Alumni organization became a functioning unit of the parish in January 1942. One of its first objectives was to develop an athletic program, and over the next several years the group raised money to hire a coach and purchase equipment. The chronicler



noted with pride that 1946 brought "a full and successful football season." Track and golf teams were organized, as were boys' basketball and baseball and girls' CYO basketball. The St. Mary Athletic Field was dedicated in October 1949.

IHM Sisters Ann Frances and Marie Elaine taught the **Class of 1952**, our featured class year, and the convent chronicler reported many athletic successes during the year. In January, she noted "A red letter day for St. Mary's. We defeated St.

that year, "the swimming team tied for second in the City," and "the girls' basketball club was very successful."

Spring football was added that year, and there was an unexpected change as well. "At the request of the Most Reverend Archbishop, our girl cheerleaders were replaced by boys." In February, vandals struck the athletic field, causing \$10,000 in damage. "St. Vincent's and South High School offered their services in repairing the damage."

June 9, 1952, 107 students graduated from St. Mary. **Walter Farrell** had his choice of three four-year scholarships, including one to MIT. **Jack Valley** and **Sheila O'Donnell** received the Knights of Columbus Christian Manhood and Womanhood awards.

Changes came rapidly for St. Mary in the 1960s and '70s. It became an all-girls school in 1962, and in 1971 the high school merged with St. Vincent. The elementary school is still open, however, the last IHM Sister left in June 1974.



The **Class of 1952** held its 55th reunion June 23, beginning with Mass at St. Mary Church. The **Rev. Jack Valley** concelebrated. Following Mass, class members gathered for refreshments, dinner and time to renew old friendships at the Crowne Plaza Quaker Square in Akron.

Trivia - 1952



The population of the United States was 157,552,740. Americans had a life expectancy of 68.6 years. Unemployment stood at 3.3 percent, and the cost of a first-class stamp was 3 cents.

Britain announced its development of atomic weapons; Queen Elizabeth II took the throne. The United States exploded the first thermonuclear bomb at Enewetak Island, and President-elect Dwight Eisenhower followed through with his campaign promise to visit Korea.



In an all-New York World Series, the Yankees defeated the Brooklyn Dodgers in seven games. The Minneapolis Lakers defeated the New York Knicks in seven games for the NBA Championship. Detroit won the Stanley Cup in four games, beating Montreal.

An American in Paris won an Oscar for "Best Motion Picture." Humphrey Bogart was named "Best Actor" for his role in *The African Queen*, and Vivien Leigh won her "Best Actress" Oscar for *A Streetcar Named Desire*.



Television's first magazine-format program, *The Today Show*, debuted on NBC with Dave Garroway hosting. *The Jackie Gleason Show* (with the classic, *The Honeymooners*, as a segment of the show) debuted on CBS.

The Caine Mutiny, by Herman Wouk, received a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* was published.



G.W.A. Dummer of England proposed the theoretical basis for the integrated circuit. American Jonas E. Salk developed the first experimentally safe dead-virus polio vaccine. The first plastic artificial heart valve was created at Georgetown Medical Center.