

## Featuring St. Michael School, Flint

The IHM Sisters began teaching at St. Michael School in Flint in 1877 at the request of the pastor.



The first day of school, the convent chronicler notes that the pastor gave the 280 students in grades one through eight "a nice little instruction...on the happiness of having religious teachers." By 1911, the parish and school had grown so big, the diocese formed a second parish and school, St. Matthew's.

Growth continued, so in the fall of 1914, a ninth grade was added. The chronicler reports that, "We earnestly hope that grades may be added from now until the whole 12 are included..." The Class of 1919 - with one member - was the first graduating class.

Athletics became important to the life of the school, and the chronicler recorded both the lows, like this 1930 entry, "The work done by the boys during the football season was of a much poorer quality this year" (1930) and the highs, such as numerous city parochial championships in basketball and football. By the mid-1930s, the school formed girls' sports teams as well.

Enrollment was steady with around 1,000 students through the 1940s and '50s. A kindergarten was added in 1954. Home economics, drivers' training and a student council were all added during this time.

Sports continued to be highlighted, with the chronicler noting during the 1960-61 school year that, "The intensive and rather extensive sports program was inaugurated with pep meetings on the Fridays before important games." The "pep meetings" were effective: the football team was undefeated during the 1962-63 regular season. The school was Valley League Champion the following year, with the basketball team becoming regional champs.





By **1969**, our [Featured Class Year](#), the 416 students in the high school enjoyed a student-to-instructor ratio of 22 to 1. Sister Colette was principal and *Bye, Bye, Birdie* was the school play. The athletic program "was in keeping with a great tradition," according to the chronicler. The boys' basketball team went to the semi-finals in the state tournament. At the pep rally prior to the homecoming game that year, "Mr. Judd McCarthy, the sole member of the first graduating class (1919) of St. Michael's High School, was the

honored guest and speaker."

Valedictorian **Janice Fialka** and the other 111 members of the senior class graduated on June 1, 1969. The parish school closed the following year as the Catholic high schools in Flint were consolidated to form Luke M. Powers Catholic Central. The grade school remained in the St. Michael's building but was renamed Daniel O'Sullivan School.

## Featured Class Year Trivia

### In 1969

Richard Nixon was president of the United States. The U.S. population was 202,676,946; life expectancy was 70.5 years; and the median household income was \$8,389 in current dollars.



Notable "firsts" include Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., walking on the moon; ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) went online, connecting four universities - the foundation upon which the Internet was built; and the first in vitro fertilization of a human egg was performed in Cambridge, England.



In August, more than half a million people gathered in the small, upstate New York town of Bethel (near Woodstock) for four days of rain and rock 'n' roll. Performers included Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Joan Baez, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Jefferson Airplane and Sly and the Family Stone.

The New York Jets  
Colts 16-7 to win Super  
upset, the New York Mets  
games over the Baltimore  
won the NBA  
Angeles Lakers in seven  
Canadiens swept the  
St. Louis Blues. It was the Blues' third straight trip to the finals and the third straight  
year they lost in four games.



defeated the Baltimore  
Bowl III. In a stunning  
won the World Series in five  
Orioles. The Boston Celtics  
Championship over the Los  
games, and the Montreal  
Stanley Cup series over the

Americans were watching TV shows such as *Get Smart*, *Hogan's Heroes*, *Mission: Impossible* and *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In*. They read Mario Puzo's, *The Godfather*, and Kurt Vonnegut's, *Slaughterhouse-Five*.



At the Grammy Awards, "Mrs. Robinson," by Simon and Garfunkel, won Record of the Year. Album of the Year went to *By the Time I Get to Phoenix*, by Glen Campbell; and Bobby Russell's "Little Green Apples" was named Song of the Year.

*Oliver!* received a Best Picture Oscar. Cliff Robertson, in *Charly*, was named Best Actor, and the Best Actress Oscar was a tie between Katharine Hepburn (*The Lion in Winter*) and Barbra Streisand (*Funny Girl*).