

School of the Month featuring St. Raymond



In 1946, 250 "pioneer" families founded St. Raymond Parish in Detroit. Religious education classes for the parish's children started immediately, with the IHM Sisters teaching. St. Raymond School for grades one through five opened in the fall of 1946.

"On Monday, Sept. 16, 1946, the unfinished building became alive with children from at least 22 public schools," the convent chronicler noted. The six IHM Sisters had the assistance of three lay teachers for the 518 students.

The sisters lived in the school for several months while waiting for the convent to be completed, which called for some ingenuity on their part. They used large cartons as draperies for the four large windows in their temporary quarters. "This latter protected us from the workman, the passersby and curious children who were eager to see the sisters," says the chronicler.

By 1947, the school had expanded to include grades one through seven. There were 708 students and 10 teachers, all of them IHM Sisters. Grade eight was added in the fall of 1948, and the school kept growing. By the 1950-51 school year, 18 IHMs taught 1,055 children.

When St. Raymond School first opened, students were not required to wear uniforms, however, that changed after the spring of 1951. The chronicler reports that, "Girls will wear dark blue skirts with white blouses and blue ties. A 'beanie' bearing the monogram SRS will complete their uniform. Boys will wear light blue shirts with dark blue ties."



That same year, St. Raymond School entered the Boys' CYO Baseball League, and the very next year, 1952, the team won the city championship. CYO Football began in the fall of 1953. Although the football team did not post a winning season, the chronicler remained optimistic. "Father Kundrat and the coaching staff expect bigger things out of those red-jerseyed, white-helmeted 'Rams' next season." Girls' CYO Baseball began in 1954.

The school continued to flourish throughout the rest of the 1950s and into the early 1960s, with enrollment at more than 1,000. Innovations were the rule of the day. During the 1962-

63 school year, "Five teachers began teaching pupils in six classrooms by means of a TV. The teachers rotated in the seventh and eighth grade rooms assisted by an aide," according to the chronicler. The IHM Sisters garnered media attention by providing workshops to other educators on using closed-circuit TV to teach.

In 1964, our [featured class year](#), 17 IHM Sisters taught the 1,269 students. That was the year the students raised \$6,200 from a Christmas card drive. It was also the year eighth-grader **Daniel Rajel** was cited for "an act of bravery in saving his young brother from drowning," the chronicler says. On June 14, the 155 eighth-graders graduated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

The IHM Sisters left St. Raymond School after the 1970-71 school year.

In 1964

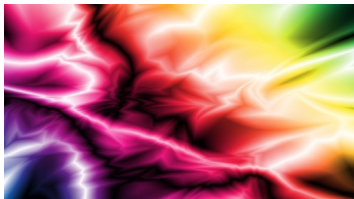
Lyndon B. Johnson was president of the United States. The U.S. population was 191,888,791. Life expectancy was 70.2 years, and a first-class stamp cost a nickel.



Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa. China detonated its first atomic bomb.

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy issued the Warren Report concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. Jack Ruby was convicted of murder in the slaying of Oswald.

Three civil rights workers - James Cheney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner - were murdered in Mississippi.



Psychedelic bands such as The Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane enjoyed great success with songs celebrating the counterculture of the '60s.



The Toronto Maple Leafs defeated the Detroit Red Wings in seven games to win the Stanley Cup.



The *Dick Van Dyke Show* won an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Program Achievement in the Field of Comedy." Its stars, Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore, won "Outstanding Continued Performance" Emmies for their lead roles.