

## Featuring St. Regis School – Bloomfield Hills, Mich.



St. Regis began as a mission school of Holy Name Parish in Birmingham, Mich., in 1959. Four IHM Sisters arrived to teach the 205 students in grades one through four.

Grades five, six, seven and eight were added, in subsequent years, and enrollment soared. By the time St. Regis became an Archdiocesan parish in June 1962, nearly 600 students attended the 10-room school. The convent chronicler notes that, "it was necessary to rent two classrooms at [the adjacent] Brother Rice [High School] for our sixth- and seventh-grade boys." The parish undertook an eight-room classroom addition in anticipation of continued growth.

That decision proved to be well founded. St. Regis had 784 students in grades one through eight for the 1963-64 school year. The "Mothers' Club" disbanded and was reborn as the St.

Regis Parents' Club. Girls' and boys' basketball teams began and the football team placed first in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) League. In April of 1964, the parish broke ground for its first convent. Eight months later, the sisters moved in over their Christmas break.



Although the St. Regis chronicler mentioned the school's athletic successes over the years, fire safety loomed much larger.

The 1964 chronicler proudly reports that, "We cleared the building in 53 seconds" during a fire drill. The students were slower the following year, when "it took one minute and 15 seconds to clear the building." In subsequent years, the fire marshal "commended the school for record time." And later, "The first grade students were impressed when he [the fire marshal] showed them his truck."

St. Regis students were very community-minded. From the beginning, they raised money for the missions, collected food and clothing for the less fortunate and visited the elderly at a home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. The school also fostered a thirst for

knowledge, with weekly visits to the school library and an annual science fair that routinely yielded regional winners.

During our **Featured Class Year**, 1972, Sister Marion Shea, IHM, was principal of St. Regis. The football team was undefeated, and the basketball team had a 21-3 record. It was the year of the



first seventh- and eighth-grade ski trip. Students made pillows for patients at Beaumont Hospital, contributed to the CARE Food Crusade and held a raffle to raise money for the people of Bangladesh. The Drama Club produced *The Wizard of Oz*. The eighth-graders graduated June 8.

Gradually, more lay people taught at St. Regis, although the IHM Sisters lived in the convent until 1982 when the parish sold the building to the Christian Brothers to use as a monastery.

St. Regis remains a vibrant school, open to students in junior kindergarten through grade eight.

## **In 1972**

The Munich Olympic Games were marred by tragedy when 11 Israeli athletes were killed after eight members of an Arab terrorist group invaded Olympic Village.

Five men were apprehended by police in an attempt to bug Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

The National Institute of Mental Health and the U.S. Surgeon General issued a report that exposure to violence on television fosters aggression in children.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

Super Bowl VI was a blowout when the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Miami Dolphins 24-3. It took seven games, but the Oakland A's defeated the Cincinnati Reds to win the World Series.

Atari introduced the arcade version of *Pong*, the first video game.

*Brian's Song* received an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Single Program, Drama or Comedy." *All in the Family* won an Emmy for "Outstanding Series, Comedy." Three of the show's stars, Carroll O'Connor, Jean Stapleton and Sally Struthers, also won Emmys.

Women dominated the Grammy Awards, taking all four top categories. Carole King won Record, Album and Song of the Year, while Carly Simon was named the Best New Artist.

Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT) scanning was developed in England. Prozac (fluoxetine) was developed by Bryan B. Malloy (Scotland) and Klaus K. Schmiegel (U.S.).