

St. Rene Goupil - Chicago



St. Rene Goupil opened in Chicago in September 1961. Four IHM Sisters traveled from Monroe to open the school for grades one through eight.

When they arrived, they discovered that 427 students had enrolled – many more than had been expected. Even with six lay teachers, the sisters considered closing the first

grade, but the archdiocesan school superintendent promised to find additional teachers. Many of the school's long-standing traditions, such as a day off on Sept. 26 in honor of St. Rene and St. Patrick's Day, as well as the May crowning, were established during that first year.



Enrollment grew. Registration for the 1964-65 school year added about 125 new students to the 538 already attending. "This means we have to open two new classrooms, which calls for building," the convent chronicler reports.



By 1970, service to others had become the norm for St. Rene students. They held food, clothes and toy drives for needy parishes nearby. The Mothers' Club established a school scholarship program. They also purchased new flags for each classroom. Principal "Sister Eugenia [Fournier] installed the flags when notified that a class knew both verses of 'The Star Spangled Banner,'" notes the chronicler.

The Mothers' Club also instituted fundraisers such as "Taffy Apple Day," "Hot Dog Day" and "Hamburger Day" to help raise money for the school.

Enrollment began dropping slightly in the 1970s. Tuition was \$170 for one child and \$180 for two or more, with book fees of \$25 per child.

In 1976, our **Featured Class Year**, 440 students were enrolled, 63 in eighth grade. Sister Dorothy (Leonilla) McGlinn, IHM, was principal. Sisters Regina (Regina Irene) Fanning, IHM, and Dorothy (Marciana) Joyce, IHM, were the eighth-grade teachers. The school held a Campbell's Soup label drive to raise money for the school's visual aids and students held a food drive for older people in need. The eighth-graders visited Adler Planetarium, participated in Bicentennial celebrations, the March of Dimes Walkathon and the skating party at the Fleetwood Roller Rink. **Michael Walsh** and **Karen Kulpins** received Mothers' Club Scholarships for high school and **Brian Drozd** won a city-wide essay contest. The Class of 1976 graduated



June 2.

St. Rene School added a kindergarten in 1981. The parish celebrated both its silver anniversary and its debt-free status in 1983.

The IHM Sisters left the school in June 1986. It remains open for students pre-K through grade eight.

In 1976



Apple Computer Company was formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. Microsoft was officially registered with the Office of the Secretary of the State of New Mexico. The first laser printer was introduced by IBM.

An earthquake in Guatemala and Honduras killed more than 22,000 people.

The Irish rock band U2 was formed after drummer Larry Mullen Jr. posted a note seeking members for a band on the notice board of his Dublin school.

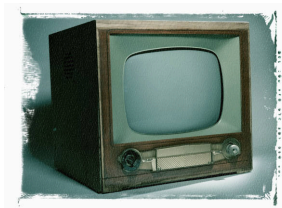
Romanian gymnast Nadia Comăneci earned the first of seven perfect scores of 10 at the 1976 Summer Olympics.



The first class of women was inducted at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Paul Simon's *Still Crazy After All These Years* won a Grammy Award for Album of the Year. Song of the Year was Stephen Sondheim's "Send in the Clowns," and Natalie Cole was named Best New Artist of the Year.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest earned Oscars for Best Actor (Jack Nicholson), Best Actress (Louise Fletcher), Directing (Milos Forman). It was named the year's Best Picture.



The Mary Tyler Moore Show won Emmy Awards for Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series (Mary Tyler Moore), Outstanding Continuing Performance By a Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series (Ted Knight) and Outstanding Continuing Performance By a Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series (Betty White).

Peyton Manning, Melissa Joan Hart, Colin Farrell and Alicia Silverstone were born. Agatha Christie, Howard Hughes, J. Paul Getty and Buddy Hackett died.