

## Featuring St. Vincent de Paul School - Detroit



When five IHM Sisters traveled from Monroe to Detroit in 1874 to staff St. Vincent de Paul School, 385 elementary-school girls were enrolled. Lay teachers taught the boys until 1877, when the sisters began teaching both. In the mid-1880s, St. Vincent opened the first parish high school in Michigan, graduating its first class in 1888.

The students at St. Vincent de Paul School not only received an excellent education, they were also taught to think of others. During World War I, they raised money for the Liberty Loan effort. The convent chronicler recorded proudly that the children "succeeded in realizing the generous 'bit' of \$65,000." During the Depression, St. Vincent alumni had a shower for the IHM Sisters, giving them much-needed food and supplies.



The convent chronicler makes note of a boys' basketball team in 1936. "The boys played with a record of excellent sportsmanship but not a victory to their credit." A few years later, after baseball and football teams had been established, the chronicler reports, "Although the teams met little or no success, the cornerstone of greater things in line has been set." Football was dropped in 1957 because of financial reasons, a decision the majority of the players supported. Girls' basketball teams fared better, often placing first or second in their division.

The industrialization of St. Vincent's neighborhood drove many families from the area, and school enrollment suffered. The grade school was discontinued in June 1962. Its students attended nearby St. Boniface. The high school, built for 400 students, had 263 enrolled.



The future of St. Vincent High School was in doubt by the 1970-71 school year. **Our Featured Class Year** is 1971, the school's last graduating class.

Officers **Michael Troisi** (president), **Ann Graham** (vice president), **Debbie Chakur**, (secretary) and **Jesse Ontiverrez** (treasurer) led the 76-member senior class through a difficult year. The defeat of Proposal C in November 1970 led to some significant changes. To save money, the school ran a split day, with high school classes held from 8 a.m. -

12:15 p.m., and junior high held from 11:35 a.m. – 4:33 p.m.

Seniors celebrated Ring Day (with a party at the Gaelic League); participated in a "Clean Up Detroit" project for Earth Week and enjoyed their prom, held at Nardos.



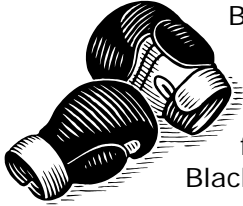
The Detroit Vicariate turned St. Vincent into a middle school, with grades five through nine, beginning in the fall of 1971. The ninth grade was eliminated in 1975 to be in step with the public schools, which had incorporated it into their high schools. By 1976, enrollment had dwindled to 183. In spite of the struggles, the school remained open until 2002.

## In 1971



United States President Richard Nixon ended the U.S. trade embargo against China. In Uganda, Idi Amin deposed Milton Obote in a coup and became president. François Duvalier, president of Haiti, died; his son Jean-Claude Duvalier followed him as president-for-life.

Anti-war militants attempted to disrupt government business in Washington. Police and military units arrested as many as 12,000; most were later released. Later in the year, 500,000 people in Washington, D.C., and 125,000 in San Francisco marched in protest against the Vietnam War.



Boxer Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden. The Baltimore Colts defeated the Dallas Cowboys 16-13 in Super Bowl V. The Baltimore Orioles lost the World Series to the Pittsburgh Pirates in seven games. In the NBA Championship series, the Baltimore Bullets were swept by the Milwaukee Bucks in four games. The Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup, defeating the Chicago Blackhawks four games to three.

Simon and Garfunkle's *Bridge Over Troubled Waters* won Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Album of the Year Grammy Awards. At the Emmy Awards, *The Bold Ones* was named Outstanding Series, Drama, and in its debut season, *All in the Family* received awards for both Outstanding Series, Comedy and Outstanding New Series.



Amtrak began inter-city rail passenger service in the United States. Southwest Airlines began its first flights between Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

Walt Disney World opened in Florida.

The Nasdaq debuted.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest was established.



During a severe thunderstorm over Washington state, a man calling himself D. B. Cooper parachuted from the Northwest Orient Airlines plane he hijacked, with \$200,000 in ransom money. He was never seen again.