

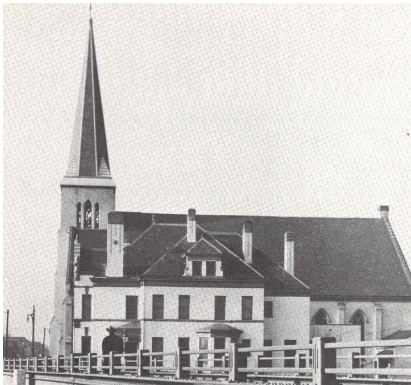
## Featuring Most Holy Trinity School – Detroit



The facts of Most Holy Trinity School in Detroit are straightforward.

The Christian Brothers ran it as a boys' school for nearly 20 years until four IHM Sisters arrived in 1867 to begin their ministry. Girls joined the student population in 1874. The boys and girls had separate classes, and 12 sisters were responsible for nearly 1,000 students.

The parish added high school classes for girls, but the boys went elsewhere after the fifth grade. A sixth grade for boys was added in 1902. Seventh and eighth grades for boys were added later, and by the mid-1920s, the boys' and girls' classes were combined. The high school closed in 1928, but the grade school remained vibrant. A parish publication described it as "the life and soul of the parish."



Holy Trinity School not only educated and nourished the minds and hearts of parish youngsters, it did the same for adults.

The area – known as Corktown in honor of the county in Ireland from which many of the original settlers came – was a haven for immigrants. Irish, Maltese, Mexicans, Native Americans, African Americans, Germans, Italians and Poles moved to the neighborhood. They struggled at first, financially and with a language barrier, but the school embraced them.

Holy Trinity began kindergarten classes in 1945 to help children learn English. In the evenings, the school building housed "Corktown College," providing night school classes to adults to develop the language and job skills needed to succeed in Detroit. The school was also the site of Cabrini Clinic, run by nurses, dentists and physicians who volunteered their time to provide care to parishioners. Most Holy Trinity pastor, Monsignor Clement Kern, implemented many of the services, with the unflagging support of the IHM Sisters, parents and the children themselves.



Holy Trinity students received an exemplary education. The International Reading Association recognized it for its approach to teaching bilingual children to read. Trinity students won citywide oratory contests and routinely placed in the annual Detroit Science Fair. Students of all nationalities made up the school's St. Patrick's Day choir; the choir was in high demand throughout the city for its spirited renditions of traditional Irish music.

In **1970**, Holy Trinity and the neighboring Catholic schools consolidated for financial reasons. Children in grades one through six attended Holy Trinity; those in grades seven to 12 went to St. Vincent.

Holy Trinity became a downtown vicariate school for grades one through four in 1971. Language arts were emphasized, and a bilingual program was added to more effectively meet the needs of students. The school also instituted "Cultural Heritage Days" to foster awareness and pride in the many ethnic groups that comprised the student population.

[Most Holy Trinity School](#) remains open and active, with students in pre-K through sixth grade, with a seventh grade to be added in the fall of 2009. Although the IHM Sisters no longer run the school, its principal is IHM Associate Kathleen McBride.

**In 1970**



President Richard Nixon lowered the voting age to 18.

The average life expectancy in this country was 70.8 years; median household income (in current dollars) was \$8,734. Unemployment was 3.5 percent. A first-class stamp cost 6 cents.

Rhodesia severed its last tie with the United Kingdom, declaring itself a racially segregated republic.



The U.S. invaded Cambodia. Four students at Kent State University in Ohio were killed and nine wounded by National Guardsmen at a protest against the incursion.

In Vietnam, the worst monsoon to hit the area in six years caused large floods, killed 293, left 200,000 homeless and virtually halted the Vietnam War.



The first Earth Day was held. It was also the year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began.

The Isle of Wight Festival 1970 took place on East Afton Farm off the coast of England. Some 600,000 people attend the largest rock festival of all time.

The Beatles released their 12th and final album, *Let It Be*.



PBS began broadcasting.