

Featuring St. Thomas the Apostle School, Ann Arbor



St. Thomas the Apostle School in Ann Arbor, Mich., opened in September 1868. The three IHM Sisters taught 200 children – a number considered to be “not very great” by the convent chronicler.

By 1900 an athletic program – boys’ baseball – was in place. The football team was formed in 1912, and by 1925, St. Thomas had a basketball team for both boys and girls.

Enrollment grew slowly but steadily through the years. The 1938-39 school year saw 532 students in grades 1-12, with 12 IHM Sisters to teach them. The parish provided transportation for students in first-fifth grade who lived far from school. The following year, the chronicler reports that, “So many [of the 573] children were obliged to have their lunch at school because of the distance of their homes...that it was thought advisable to shorten the noon hour” so that the students wouldn’t be “tempted to wander off in search of adventure.” A new cafeteria in 1954 further reduced the students’ wanderlust.



The athletic program was integral to life at St. Thomas in spite of some heartbreaking losses by the various teams. “Too many festivities!” comments the convent chronicler when reporting on the 1961-62 homecoming game loss. The cross country team became parochial champs that year though. The boys’ basketball team earned a southwest division championship, and the track and wrestling teams won regional championships. During the 1963-64 school year the chronicler reported, “The athletes suffered a severe blow to their pride, for they lost almost all their games.”



During 1967-**1968** (our featured class year), the speech class presented *The Mouse That Roared* and the boys’ basketball team captured a district trophy. That same year, students attended a national theater conference in New York City, and “a number of high school students went on a trip to New York and Washington, D.C. They were accompanied by Mr. Mussio and Sisters Marie Lawrence and Josanne. This was most enjoyable and the students behaved very well.”

The junior-senior banquet and prom was held at the Statler Hilton on May 29. “This was a new effort at having general attendance of the two classes present and was successful in every regard,” according to the chronicler. The 84 members of the senior class received their diplomas in June at a 7 p.m. Mass.

In November 1971, the chronicler reported that, “We had a week of prayer for God’s assistance in keeping our school open...” The prayer was answered in February 1972 when the parish council voted to keep it open for at least another three years. In one of the convent chronicler’s final entries, she says, “Father Gabriel Richard High (a Catholic area high school) supplanted St. Thomas High School in 1977.”

In 1968



Lyndon Johnson was president of the United States. Hubert H. Humphrey was his vice president. The U.S. population stood at 200,706,052, and Americans had a life

expectancy of 70.2 years. Unemployment was 3.8 percent, and a first-class stamp cost six cents.



Martin Luther King, Jr. was slain in Memphis on April 4. Kennedy was shot and critically wounded on June 5 in after winning the California presidential primary. He died



Robert F. Los Angeles June 6.

The North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive, a turning point in the Vietnam War. American soldiers massacred 347 civilians at My Lai.

60 Minutes aired on CBS, beginning its reign as the longest-running prime-time newsmagazine. The motion picture rating system debuted with G, PG, R and X.



"Up, Up and Away," received both a Song of the Year Grammy (Jimmy L. Webb, songwriter) and a Record of the Year award. *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, by the Beatles was named Album of the Year.

Emmy Awards went to *Mission: Impossible* (Outstanding Dramatic Series) and *Get Smart!* (Outstanding Comedy Series). *In the Heat of the Night* received an Oscar for Best Picture. Katharine Hepburn was named Best Actress for her role in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* and the Best Actor award went to Rod Steiger, *In the Heat of the Night*.



The Detroit Tigers won their first World Series championship since 1945, defeating the St. Louis Cardinals in seven games.