

Featuring Marian High School – Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

The dream of Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., began in the late 1950s.

There were five Catholic elementary schools in the Bloomfield Hills area, but no Catholic high school. Parents from nearby Holy Name Parish formed a committee to explore the feasibility of a girls' high school.



The committee approached the IHM Sisters to sponsor Marian. After receiving archdiocesan approval, each of the five founding parishes, Holy Name, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, St. Hugo of the Hills, St. Bede and St. Columban, contributed toward construction costs. They raised nearly \$1 million; the sisters mortgaged their Motherhouse to finance the rest. Construction began in February 1959 and the cornerstone was placed in May.

Marian was built to accommodate up to 1,000 students when it opened in September 1959. It began with 132 freshmen and nine IHM Sisters, with an additional grade added in each subsequent year.

A variety of student activities, including a service club and a basketball team, began within Marian's first two years. The Student Council was accepted into the National Association of Student Councils. Marian held its first Science Fair, its first Latin Week and its first honors assembly. The sidewalk connecting Marian with Brother Rice High School, the boys' school next door (sponsored by the Christian Brothers), was installed.



By September 1961, 23 IHM Sisters taught at Marian. The convent chronicler reports that the juniors and sophomores shared homerooms, "...partly to promote a greater spirit of unity and friendliness between the classes." The experiment lasted until April.

Marian held its first induction ceremony for the National Honor Society, and the sophomore dance in the spring of 1962 marked the first joint venture between Marian and Brother Rice High Schools.

In September 1962, Marian had 824 students enrolled in grades nine through 12 and 30 IHM teachers. The school newspaper was launched in October. Originally called the *Marianette*, it soon became *Marianews*. The first yearbook was published and the first ring ceremony -- for the Class of 1963, our **Featured Class Year** -- was held. Class officers were **Carol Jurica**, president; **Nancy Corrigan**, vice president; **Carolyn Bien**, treasurer; and **Carole Dodge**, secretary.

The Marian Choral received an "Excellent" rating at the National Catholic Music Educators adjudication that year. The first all-school dance, "Swing into Spring," was held in April, and the first senior prom took place at the Birmingham Country Club in May. The seniors enjoyed their special Mass and breakfast on June 7, and on June 9, the first 122 of thousands of young women over the years graduated from Marian High School.

The following fall, the Girls' Athletic Association sponsored the first Marian Field Day. "The sophomores won the trophy for the most original banner..." the chronicler says. Field Day was so successful, another was held in the spring.

Marian High School was not immune to the societal changes that began in the 1960s and '70s. There were experiments in non-graded classes for juniors and seniors. The history department added African-American and Asian studies to the curriculum. The religion department taught comparative religions. The faculty voted to free all students from supervised study periods. "Class Day," with non-competitive activities, replaced Field Day. (It was later reinstated as a competition between the classes.)



Throughout the changes, however, the faculty, parents, board of trustees and the IHM Sisters remained committed to Marian students, expecting excellence in both academics and in extracurricular activities. They have not been disappointed.

Year after year, more than 90 percent of Marian graduates go on to college (in many years, 100 percent continue their educations). Year after year, Marian excels in sports, winning district and state championships in swimming, lacrosse, soccer, basketball and others.

Today, Marian High School remains true to its mission: "...to ensure, within a Christian environment, an excellent education built on a strong academic curriculum, which will enable young women to value human diversity and live responsible lives of leadership and action based upon gospel values.



Congratulations, Marian High School, on your 50 years of service!

In 1963

Viewers watching the televised news coverage of President John Kennedy's assassination witnessed Jack Ruby shoot Kennedy's accused killer, Lee Harvey Oswald.



The United States Supreme Court ruled that no locality may require recitation of Lord's Prayer or Bible verses in public schools.

The first liver transplant was performed. Valium was developed by Roche labs.



Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of at least 250,000, during the *March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom*.



ZIP Codes were introduced in the U.S.



The First Family, by Vaughn Meader, received an Album of the Year Grammy Award. The Beatles released their first album *Please Please Me*.



The Boston Celtics were the NBA Champions after defeating the Los Angeles Lakers in six games. The Los Angeles Dodgers swept to victory over the New York Yankees in the World Series. The Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup in five games with the Detroit Red Wings.

Shirley Booth, starring in *Hazel*, won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Continued Performance By an Actress in a Series (Lead). Don Knotts received an Emmy in the Best Supporting Actor category for his role as Barney Fife on *The Andy Griffith Show*.



The Feminine Mystique (Betty Friedan), *Happiness is a Warm Puppy* (Charles M. Schulz) and *Cat's Cradle* (Kurt Vonnegut) were published.

Michael Jordan, Quentin Tarantino, Whitney Houston and Brad Pitt were born. Robert Frost, Patsy Cline and Pope John XXIII died.