

Featuring St. Joseph School, Monroe

St. Joseph School established its roots even before there was a parish.

During the early 1920s, the children on Monroe's east side attended Lincoln Public School. They often stopped by the religion classes held at St. John Parish, about a mile away. Sister Loretto Cecile, IHM, believed the children should not have to travel for their religious education.

The children were invited to attend religion classes at the nearby Eagle Movie Theater, which Sister Loretto had convinced the Christopher Columbus Society to rent for the classes. The Knights of Columbus paid for a taxi to take the IHM Sisters to the theater twice a week to teach.

By the fall of 1923, the IHM Sisters received permission to teach religion after classes at Lincoln Public School, and a priest was appointed to form a parish on the east side of Monroe. The priest used the vacant Hemmeter Cigar Factory for a church, and a parish was born.



The cigar factory was remodeled for classrooms, and in September 1924, 300 students in grades one through eight and four IHM Sisters "found orange crates and card tables substituting for desks here and there wherever there was a shortage of desks," according to the convent chronicler.

By 1940, the parish built a new school. It remained small by the standards of the day – enrollment never exceeded 375 – but the children were active. The older students made retreats; attended school dances; served as altar boys or choir girls; and enjoyed the school's athletic teams.



Students sponsored fundraisers for overseas missions and gift baskets for the elderly, as well as for athletic equipment and encyclopedias for the school.

Our featured class, the **Class of 1967**, raised money with a Mardi Gras. "This was their Pre-Lenten Project for the Missions," the chronicler notes. "The proceeds amounted to \$164.83."

School Principal Sister Marie Carmel, IHM, was reassigned at the end of the school year, and the class presented a bouquet of red roses to "thank her for her faithful service." The 24 eighth-graders graduated June 7. **Beth Blaider** received a full scholarship to attend St. Mary Academy from the St. Mary Academy Alumnae; **Angela Rosati** and **Bernard Ochs** each received a half scholarship from the St. Joseph Parent-Teacher Guild.

During the 1968-69 academic year, the public school system provided transportation at no cost. Government subsidies kept milk at 15 cents a week at school. And St. Joseph received books and equipment through the Title II program. The election in November 1970 changed that when funding for private schools was eliminated.

As a result, the chronicler noted in June 1971 that St. Joseph School was "...not to be in session the following year due to the financial situation."

In 1967



One of the deadliest civil disturbances in modern U.S. history erupted in Detroit; 7,000 National Guardsmen aided police after a night of rioting. Similar outbreaks occurred in New York City's Spanish Harlem, Rochester, N.Y., Birmingham, Ala., and New Britain, Conn.

Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as first black United States Supreme Court justice.



Israeli and Arab forces battled; the Six-Day War ended with Israel occupying the Sinai Peninsula, Golan Heights, Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The United States and the USSR proposed a nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Communist China announced the explosion of its first hydrogen bomb.



Dr. Christiaan N. Barnard and a team of South African surgeons performed world's first successful human heart transplant. The patient died 18 days later.

Joyce Carol Oates published *A Garden of Earthly Delights*; William Styron published *The Confessions of Nat Turner*. The Pulitzer Prize for fiction went to Bernard Malamud for *The Fixer*.

Cabaret won eight major Tony Awards, including one for Best Musical.



In the first Super Bowl, the Green Bay Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10. The St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series in seven games against the Boston Red Sox; their second championship in four years. It was the first NBA Championship Series without the Boston Celtics in 11 years when the Philadelphia 76ers defeated the San Francisco Warriors in six games. The Toronto Maple Leafs won their 13th Stanley Cup by beating the Montreal Canadiens in six games.