

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters



With the creation of the school in 1924 there was a need for teachers, and so that year the first three IHM Sisters arrived in Wayne.



IHM's were highly regarded for their teaching. At the time they taught at more schools than any other religious order in Detroit. They also had teaching degrees years before it was required.



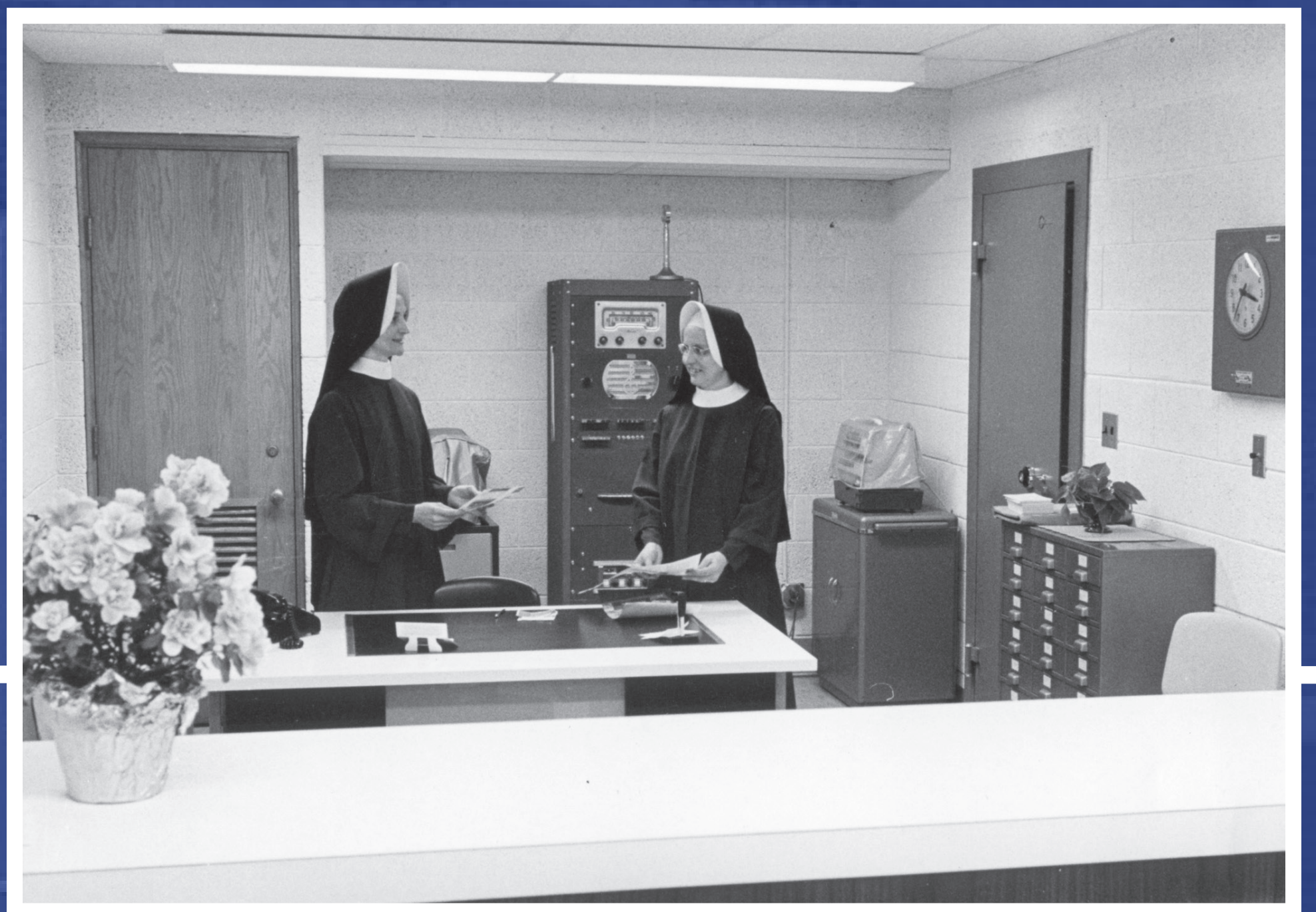
At a peak in 1963, 21 nuns taught over 1,000 students at St. Mary's. The sisters earned a salary of \$25.00 per week.



For the most part, students were very fond of the nuns. There was no corporal punishment, and students were known to walk their favorite teachers back to the convent on Main Street.



The sisters would leave for the summer and go to the IHM Motherhouse in Monroe. When they returned for the school year they were given gifts and canned goods to stock the convent. They also had one car to share between them.



With the closure of the high school in 1971, the number of sisters dropped to 12. Over time, with the changes made in Vatican II and the progress made in women's rights, the number of nuns continued to drop. The last IHM sister left St. Mary's School in 1985.