
Physical Changes to the IHM Campus

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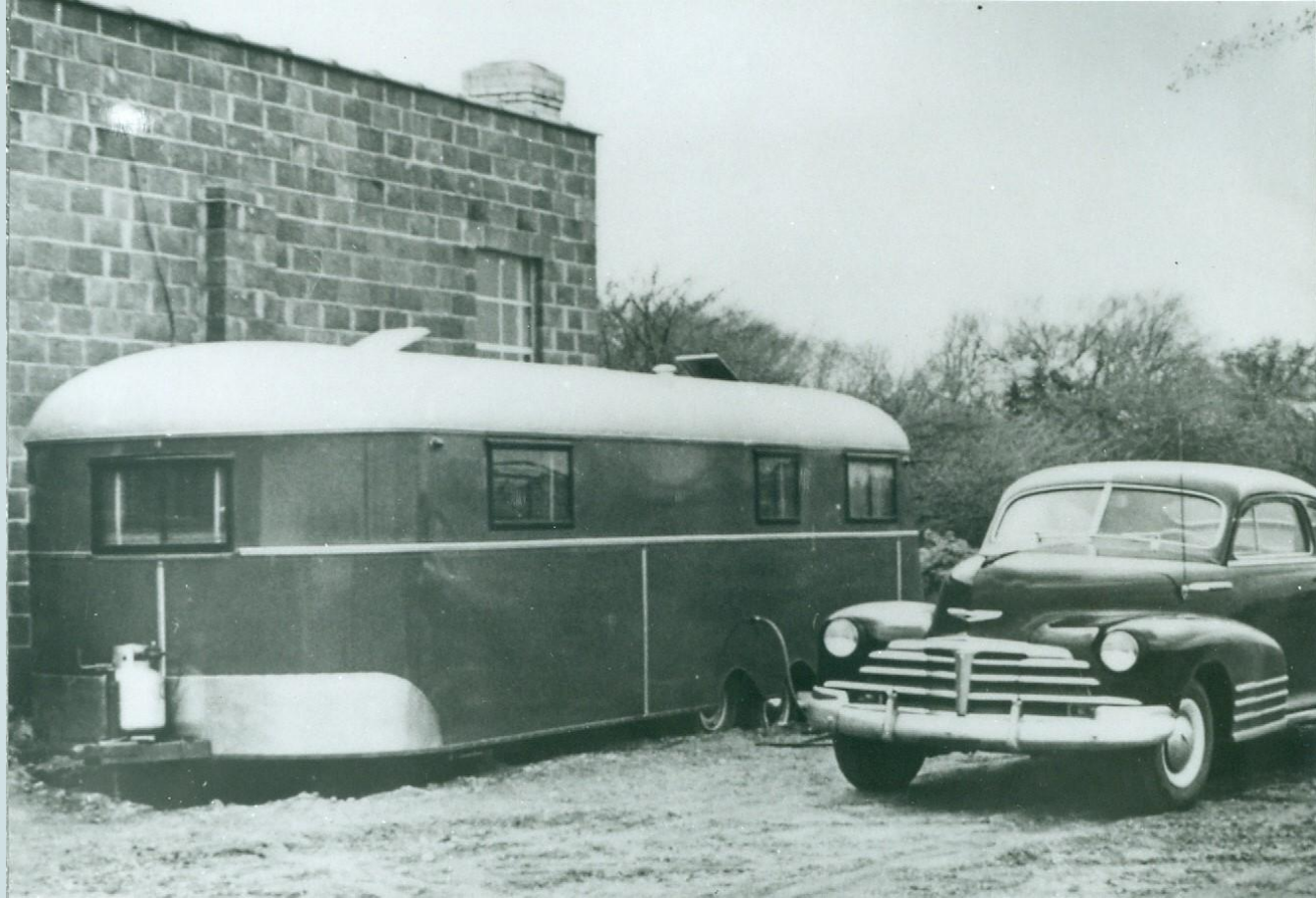
The first “temporary” Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was erected in 1949.



Our original church was blessed by Bishop Francis Haas during the first Mass on April 3, 1949—Passion Sunday.

Facts About The Building of the First IHM Church:

- In 1948, the nearby parishes of St. Francis Xavier and St. Stephen donated \$15,000 to purchase ten acres along Plymouth Road, from Burton St. to Griggs St.
- Pastor Father Charles Killgoar hired Bernie Hoogterp as the builder, Sam Malone to do the plumbing and heating, and John Zanella for the tile work.
- The very first Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Robbins, Oblate Provincial, and the sermon was preached by Bishop Haas. The altar boys were John Richard, Tom Richard and Frank Malone.



Until a rectory was built, Fathers Killgoar and Gigante lived in this trailer, from April through June 1949.



Soon the rectory, including this chapel, was constructed.
This first rectory is now the preschool building.



Immaculate Heart of Mary School's first four classrooms opened in the fall of 1952. Six more classrooms were added in a south wing in 1954 and six more—for a total of 14 classrooms—were added in a west wing in 1957.



This statue of Mary formerly stood near today's entry to the Parish Center.
This photo was taken around 1958.



Fr. Killgoar broke ground for the new, “permanent” church in 1965. The assistant pastor pictured was Fr. Ed Mahoney and the altar boy was Tom Mier.



This is a view of the new rectory during construction, 1966.



The front of our church during construction, 1965-'66.



Finished exterior of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church as it looked in 1966.

Facts about IHM's new Church and Convent:

- Work began to convert the old rectory into a new convent in 1966. Two bedrooms and two bathrooms were added. The total cost of the church and rectory, including all furnishings, parking lots and outdoor lighting, was \$800,000.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was the first church to be built in the area following the Second Vatican Council. The new Church was a departure from traditional Catholic Church architecture.
- Six months after the church was finished, a tornado hit the area. Fortunately the church was spared, but there was damage to the convent and gymnasium roof.



A view of the church interior, 1972. The “Risen Christ” was purchased in Italy and added to the wall behind the altar two years later.



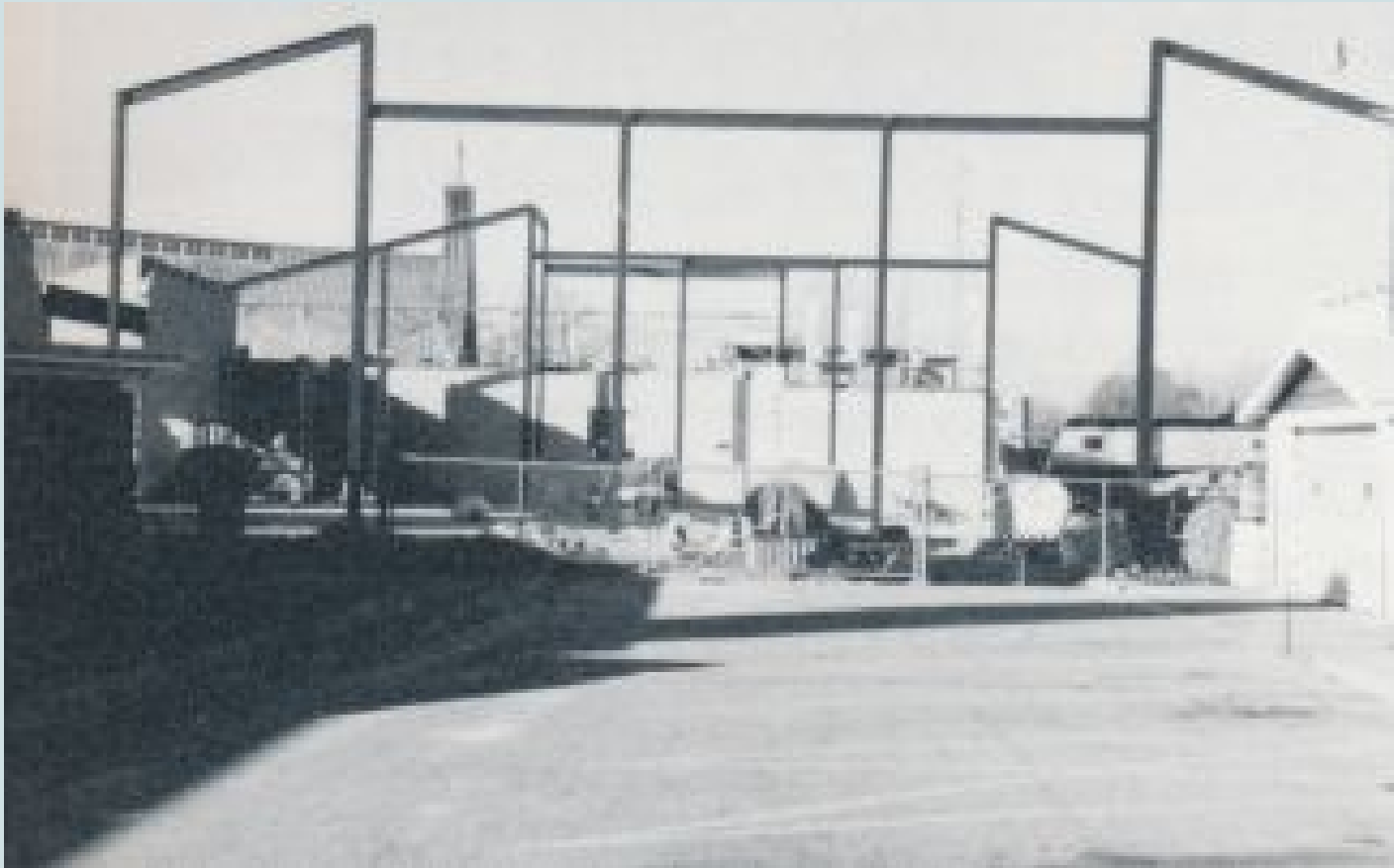
In 1974, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of IHM Parish.



After Mass, parishioners celebrated our 25th parish anniversary with a party held in the Ottawa Hills High School “Mall” area.

Facts about the construction of the Parish Center:

- The groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 7, 1980. The parish center was finished nine months later.
- About 500 parishioners came to the June 21, 1981 dedication and blessing of the newly constructed building by Bishop Joseph Breitenbeck
- DeYoung and Bagin built the 21,000 square foot building that included a gymnasium (Viking Hall), a large room with dance floor (DeMazenod Room), a kitchen, and a smaller meeting room (Dominican Room).



The Parish Center during construction, 1980.



This is a current photo of the front of the school, which was expanded and renovated in 1992. The first church stood on this site.

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Images courtesy of the IHM Archives and Mrs. Deb Moore