Candidate to be Received into IHM Novitiate

Elizabeth Ann “Liz” McGill will be received into the IHM Novitiate on Sunday, September 8, at 3:00 p.m. Sisters and IHM Associates are invited to attend the simple ceremony in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center.

During her candidacy, Liz lived first with the IHM sisters on Capouse Avenue in Scranton where she participated in prayer and community life. In November 2018, Liz moved to McCarty Hall on Marywood University’s campus where she continues to live with the sisters in Annunciation Community. As a candidate, Liz worked part-time at Marywood and volunteered at Friends of the Poor, St. Joseph’s Center and Our Lady of Peace. She also participated actively in formation classes, Inter-Community Formation workshops, retreats and activities and served on congregational committees.

Sisters and Associates planning to attend the reception ceremony, please RSVP to communications@sistersofihm.org by August 30.

Pictured is Liz McGill standing beside the statue of Theresa Maxix Duchemin at St. Mary’s Spiritual Center and Historic Site in Baltimore, Md.

Nearly 200 IHM Sisters and Associates Gather for IHM Assembly

Nearly 200 gathered July 26-27 for IHM Assembly, "Living into our Shared Future," at the IHM Center in Scranton. The Friday afternoon meeting, facilitated by Sister Mary Persico, IHM, began with the address by Sister Ellen Maroney, president. In part Sister Ellen noted, "During this past year we individually and collectively embodied our commitment to unconditional love for the world in a myriad of ways. We responded to the ongoing and ever evolving situations that arise each day in our ministries, our families, and in our beautiful yet wounded world from our contemplative center. We have continued to make the contemplative dialogue process a priority as we discern our shared future. This process allows us to continue to invite and challenge ourselves to recognize the ways that we can live more authentically 'in the midst of the pain of our world.' As religious women today, and as IHMs, we are called to go beyond our comfort zones and continue to find ways to embody unconditional love both for each other and for the broader hurting communities of people with whom we live and work." Sister Ellen cited some of the many ways the Sisters of IHM have embodied love through prayer and action. She concluded with the encouragement, "Let us celebrate the goodness and giftedness of one another and with courage and faith embark on these next steps into our shared future."
Continued from page 1

Following Sister Ellen’s address, the leadership members of the Sisters of St. Casimir who share in a covenant relationship with the IHMs provided an update on the life, mission, and growing legacy of the SSC congregation.

The IHM congregation business meeting addressed issues on governance, vital living, and stewardship. Presenters on these topics were Sisters Jane Snyder, Jean Coughlin, and Terri Jordan.

On Saturday, Sister Mary Persico welcomed the IHM Sisters and Associates present as well as those viewing via closed circuit TV and Ustream. The day began with prayer remembering those sisters and associates who had died since the 2018 assembly.

Sister Mary then introduced Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, who addressed the assembly on religious life: naming our reality and making meaning of our reality. Sister Mary used Ron Rolheiser’s five movements of the Paschal Journey: Good Friday, Easter Sunday, The 40 Days, The Ascension, and Pentecost to illustrate the movement and transformation that have taken place in religious life over the past several decades. She concluded with, “We’re a lot like those first followers of Jesus. Perhaps things have not turned out as we would have hoped. Our communities are smaller and older than we had hoped they would be. We’re frail, at times fearful and like all of humanity with us, broken. And yet, we are what God needs for this time. And when we are able to believe that and live out of that then every moment becomes a Pentecost event—in which, as Rolheiser writes, we receive the Spirit for the life we’re already living.” Sister Mary invited the assembly to take the context of her talk—naming our reality as older and smaller and asking ourselves how this reality informs the work we will do with the issues that the congregation has worked to identify over the past six months as those most critical to its future.

Following Sister Mary’s talk, the following questions were discussed by sisters and associates grouped by age cohorts. Responses were shared at open mic.

- What claim will we allow our mission and charism to have on us?
- What do we need from our sisters to sustain and nourish our IHM vocation?
- What do we offer our sisters and associates to sustain and nourish our/their vocations?

Following lunch, Sisters discussed the critical issues and two matters brought to the advisory board suggesting changes in wording of the critical issues. The suggested changes are: Environment to Climate Advocacy and Contemplation to Spirituality. Plenary conversations also considered the questions, “Of which of these critical issues are you most passionate and around which issue are you inspired to take some personal responsibility?” Open mic responses and questions followed. Tables were asked to affirm or explain their reasoning to change the words regarding Environment and Contemplation.

A new initiative from participants in the Healing Racism workshop was briefly addressed. The initiative suggests reaching out to former IHM members who are African American to ask forgiveness for mistreatment of them while they were members of the congregation. Sister Jane Snyder spoke about the initiative and Sister Mary Persico suggested that this initiative could be implemented within the critical issue of relationships.

The Assembly concluded with a commissioning of sisters and associates, who sent each other forth with a blessing into our shared future.
75th Jubilarian
Sister Melissa Hester

70th Jubilarians
L-R: Sisters Ann Marie O’Brien, Mary Newett, Ellen Maroney, president. Not pictured: Mary Barbara Campbell, Catherine Anne Mullaly, Electa Schmidt, Isabel Schratwieser

50th Jubilarians
L-R front: Sisters Therese Mary Dougherty, Maria Grace Quartiero, Christine Koellhoffer, Bernadette Thomas, Ann Rosalia Devlin. L-R back: Jane Gaughan, Delia Marie McNevin, Doreen Willis, Maureen Willis, Kathleen K. Kelly, Theresa Frere, Catherine Luxner, Eleace King, Janet Jeffers, Ellen Maroney, president.
July 6, 2019
Dear Sister Ann Walsh,

Among the many blessings that have come into my life over the last several years is a re-acquaintance with the Sisters of IHM. My grandmother Barrett’s sister, Sister Sylvia (Gwendolyn) Morgan, was a member of the order and at one time served as Marywood’s president. As a child I was very close to her and visited her many times at Marywood. It was a grand occasion when she was given permission to spend time with us at Christmas. One of the things I treasure is a small rocking chair, which was a gift from her to me when I was 5 or 6. In becoming reacquainted with the Sisters of IHM, I have come to look forward to the publication, Journey. The Spring 2019 issue, in particular, has struck a chord with me as I have begun an exploration of meditation and mindfulness as part of my spiritual journey. I read each of the articles thoroughly and have been taken by their guidance and wisdom. I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the approach to spiritual wholeness you and the sisters are offering.

Sincerely,
Marianne Barrett

N.B. Sister M. Sylvia Morgan served as president of Marywood College from 1943-1949. Prior to her presidency, she had taught all the science courses offered when Marywood first opened in 1915, and she had become the first chairperson of that department after its faculty increased. She was admitted as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1934. A convert to Catholicism, she had attended St. Cecilia’s in Scranton, eventually earning her doctorate at the University of California. Under her presidency, Marywood continued to broaden its teaching services. Students’ energy, galvanized by World War II, centered on many activities concerned with peace and the betterment of life throughout the world. By 1945, more than 2,000 students had earned degrees from Marywood. Before she left office, Sister Sylvia also oversaw the redesign and adoption of the official Marywood seal—a design that persists to this day.

190th Anniversary
Still Standing
Under God’s Mantle of Providence

Monroe, Immaculata, and Scranton IHMs joined the July 2nd celebration of the 190th anniversary of the foundation of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. The occasion was marked with liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Lori. The liturgy was followed by a grand reception for the guests in Sacred Heart Hall. Pictured L-R: Sisters Marianne Gaynor (M), Nancy DeCesare (S), Sharon Hedrick (I), Stephen Anne Rodriguez (I), Joanne Ralph (I), Mary Ellen Tenny (I), Suzanne Delaney (S), Mary Jane Herb (M), Kathleen Lunsmann (S), Rita Michelle Proctor (OSP), and Ellen Maroney (S).
IHM 175th Anniversary
Preparation for Looking Back
Fall 2019

As with the Sankofa bird, with its head looking back and its feet facing forward, we desire to look back to glean our learnings from the past 175 years. Grounded in our rich history, we will gather from Thursday, July 16, to Sunday, July 19, 2020, at the IHM Motherhouse in Monroe, MI to look to the future, aware of a new narrative emerging among us.

We aspire to live our IHM Core Values:

- **Rootedness in God**
  Embracing a spirituality of discipleship and intimacy with God nourished and sustained by Eucharist.

- **Community**
  Choosing radical interdependence to enflesh and further the mission of Jesus in the world.

- **Justice**
  Standing with, defending, and empowering those who are denied full human dignity.

- **Respect for Diversity**
  Welcoming unconditionally the varied gifts of God throughout all creation.

- **Wholeness**
  Integrating a rhythm of life that includes all dimensions of the self

For Reflection and Conversation

In our mission circles, dialogue groups, local communities, or groups of friends:

*What has been your experience related to these core values?*

*What stories or examples come to mind from your experience?*

*What is the “DNA” of the Scranton IHM congregation?*

*What are the elements that we wish to bring forward to establish a new narrative as we celebrate our 175th anniversary?*

Groups are asked to submit to the IHM Communications Office at communications@sistersofihm.org a summary of their responses to the last two questions by December 1, 2019.

We Scranton IHMs got our DNA from the sisters who've gone before us. Our DNA hereditary material passes on information from generation to generation. It is this genetic code that determines all the characteristics of Scranton IHM.
IHM Development Office

Toyota of Scranton, One of Many IHM Sisters Celebration Sponsors

Pictured L-R: Bob Edwards, Patrick Rogers, Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM; Rich LaRussa, Sister de Montfort Babb, IHM; Mary Jo Preno, Len Gierszal, Nick Bosque, George Zepherin, and Mark Thomas.

Sister Gloria Frank to be Featured in Fall Appeal

The fall appeal letter is currently in production and is scheduled to be mailed to IHM donors and friends during September. The appeal highlights the ongoing ministries of Sister Gloria Frank, IHM, who entered the Congregation almost 70 years ago. Readers will gain insight into the way Sister Gloria listened to the stirrings in her heart which always resulted in something wonderful evolving.

2019-2020 Silver Circle Memberships Sales Begin

We are off to a running start with 2019-2020 Silver Circle memberships already rolling into the development office! Current sellers: If you haven’t already received your 2019-2020 sellers’ packets, please see the development office. We are in need of more sellers to help support the ongoing needs of our retired sisters. If you or anyone you know is interested, call 570 346-5431 or email armbrustl@sistersofihm.org

From the IHM Vocation Office

Light the Fire is a Diocesan Youth Rally for High School students. Sisters Mindy Welding, IHM and Kieran Williams attended, participated and staffed a vocation information table at the event. It truly is a high energy day filled with renowned speakers, breakout workshops, worship music, adoration, reconciliation, time for lunch and activities and a closing liturgy with Bishop Bambera. About 300 students attend this annual youth rally.

Sister Mindy Welding, Director of Vocations, and Jane O’Neill, Director of Associates, attended the second annual Conference for Catholic Women held at the Byron Center at the University of Scranton. The day consisted of speakers, an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a chance to visit a variety of Catholic vendors as well as representatives from the Office for Parish Life, IHM Sisters, Sisters of Life and others. The day began with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Bambara and ended with a procession and veneration of the Blessed Sacrament. Jane and Sister Mindy brought materials about vocations to religious life and about the Associate program.
This summer, more than 80 sisters from 50 different communities of Catholic women religious gathered at Fontbonne University in St. Louis for the Giving Voice National Gathering exploring the theme Boldness and Beauty of Communion: Living Religious Life Now! I was privileged to work on the planning team with six other sisters and two lay women. Working with this team of women was not only an experience of trust-filled collaboration, but one of deep prayer and joy. One of my tasks was facilitating a collaborative artistic process conducive to prayer and reflection on the topics and conversations throughout the weekend. Through watercolor painting and collage, sisters made meaning for our lives through both the metaphors they found and formed in the collages and through the process itself—in seeing the act of deconstructing leading to reimagining something new; in seeing the beauty in the messiness; in turning things around to see a new perspective; in making of empty spaces for the future; in finding ways to make every piece belong.

Along with the joy of creating together, there were many graces from the experience: the deep conversations, the tender holding in prayer circles, the joy of song, and the sense of communion in which I feel a collective consciousness growing closer among us, even while we are spread across the continent. A final surprise: I got to catch up with Sisters Danielle Truex (Immaculata) and Audra Turnbull (Monroe) for an enjoyable Tri-IHM meal together.

Hot Dogs, Sausage and Peppers, Haluski—All for St. Joe’s

On Saturday evening, July 27, IHM sisters, associates, and friends staffed the hot foods stand to serve patrons of St. Joe’s Festival. This year we were 26 strong and sported hot pink tee shirts in order to attract folks to the stand. The evening was filled with fun, food, and hungry patrons. We hope to see you there next year. Pictured left to right are Sisters Donna Korba and Kieran Williams; IHM Associates, Jane O’Neill and Pat Sheehan; IHM Sisters Mindy Welding and Mary Elaine Anderson; IHM Candidate, Liz McGill; and Sister Grace Surdovels.
**Button Man by Andrew Gross**
Reviewed by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

*Button Man* by Andrew Gross is classified as “Historical Fiction.” The context—the NYC Garment District/Industry of the 1930s and its pioneers—Jewish immigrants—is historically accurate. Some of the book’s characters are real, especially Louis “Lepke” Buchalter and Dutch Schultz of the Jewish mob and special prosecutor (later, Governor of New York) Thomas Dewey. The book’s main characters, however, the three brothers of the Rabishevsky family, Morris, Sol and Harry, and the family business are not. But if you read through to the very end of the book, you’ll discover the true reason why I elected to review this book. I have not only heard of the real family business known by the first two names of the founder’s daughter but, in my younger years, I shopped there often! If you grew up in NEPA, probably so have you! Why disguise the names? Mainly, I suspect, that the author who has a special connection to the real family and its F.I.T.—recorded history—decided not to write a biography but to turn these real individuals into symbols of all the Jewish immigrants who tried to create a business in the garment district during a time when they were constantly attacked and sabotaged by their fellow Jewish immigrants who created their own family business—the Jewish mob! The title of this book, *Button Man*, captures this ethnic/immigrant divide. Though it would seem that “button” connects to the garment industry, the term “Button Man” really means a gunman for the mob.

*Button Man*’s opening chapters begin in 1905 in the Rabishevsky home. Bella had six children—Sol, the oldest, daughters Bess and Anna, twins Harold and Shemuel and the youngest, Morris. One winter day two tragedies happened to the Rabishevsky family. Bella’s husband, Jacob, was working in the Temple when it caught fire. He didn’t survive. And, as Bella was running toward the Temple, she saw her twins and, admittedly her favorite, Shemuel, run into traffic and Shemuel was killed as well. Harry not only felt responsible for his twin’s death, but his guilt and shame would be a key factor in shaping his adult life.

When he was twelve, Morris wanted to help support his family so he left school and got a job in a garment factory. The owners realized he had a real gift for the business and he was soon graduating from maintenance to designer to manager. By the time he was twenty, Morris had shortened his last name to Raab and started his own business joined by his brother, Sol, as business manager. Meanwhile, Harry had never recovered from his brother’s death and had started to spend time with Lepke and the Jewish mob. *Button Man* is primarily the story of the ways the Jewish mob intimidated—often violently—by forcing owners to allow workers to unionize while also forcing workers to join. Now in control, the mob both controlled business prices and union dues. And once the owner complied, they soon ended up going broke and out of business. Morris refused to comply; he challenged the mob and tried to survive by assisting a government prosecutor, while at the same time, struggling to reconcile with his brother, and keep his business and himself alive. The power of *Button Man* is the experience it gives you of the clash between intimidation and desperation and the way immigrants try to make a life in a new country often facing choices to succeed either by building an industry or destroying it. And, for me, this power multiplied when I found a personal connection to it. Perhaps you will, too.
On the Bank of the River Raisin by Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM

In a river, past, present and future coalesce in the one passionate flowing. A river is a continuous flow of future... a miracle of presence.... It gives itself to the urgency of becoming but never at the cost of disowning its origin.

John O’Donohue

Sister Giovana Fuentes Bendivez and I had the opportunity to spend six days in Monroe, Michigan, with our IHM sisters. River House Spirituality Center, where we were lodged, stood on the banks of the River Raisin. On my last day there, I sat peacefully, with coffee cup in hand, watching the ducks, herons and geese feeding along the river and listening to the sound of water passing over the rocks. I imagined Theresa Maxis and our first sisters sitting on this same river bank, maybe even wading in the water. I wondered what simple joys, sadness, adventures and dreams this sacred space held then and continues to hold for our IHM sisters.

The week in Monroe was filled with study, reflection, dialogue, encounters and reconnecting with Monroe IHMs. Sandra Schneiders offered a mini-course—Exploring the Resurrection—to about twenty-five IHM sisters and associates each morning of the week (July 15-19). She focused on chapter 20 of John’s gospel and challenged us to look with new eyes at the glorification of Jesus on the cross, his bodily resurrection, his appearances to and sending forth of his disciples.

During her presentation, Sandra explained that there are different ways of “knowing” and “seeing” reality. Rather than viewing reality as something objective that we need to seize, Sandra encouraged us to look at reality as something that shows or gifts itself to us. In other words, we who are the “knowers” must open ourselves to the gift that reality reveals to us. Sandra invited us to reflect on our own ways of knowing and to ask ourselves:

- Are we able to live with ambiguity, uncertainty and “not knowing scientifically”?
- Does the tendency to hold fast to past experiences, which shape what we know and believe, limit our ability to experience what is new for us and to see the invisible in the visible?
- How willing are we to let go of old beliefs, move beyond our comfort zone and engage with reality as it reveals itself to us?

In the afternoons, Giovana and I engaged in a variety of activities with our Monroe sisters. We explored the archives, visited the tombs of Father Gillet and our first sisters and walked along the Detroit River, where we had a view of the Canadian coast. In the evenings, Giovana and I, as well as the Monroe sisters and associates from Juarez, Mexico, were invited by the IHM communities in the area to eat and socialize.

Truly, the week in Monroe, Michigan, was a time to have fun, engage in deep conversations and strengthen our connections with our Monroe sisters!
IHM Leads Summer Service at Retirement Village

From Tuesday, July 16 through Thursday, July 18, 2019, Sister Sandy Grieco, pastoral associate at St. Mark’s High School and twenty-eight of Saint Mark’s students, plus seven faculty and staff members sacrificed their time so that they could offer service to the residents of Marydale Retirement Village in Newark, Delaware. Marydale, run by the Diocese of Wilmington, provides rental housing for seniors and persons with disabilities.

The students washed windows, scoured ovens, cleaned kitchens and bathrooms, weeded, pruned bushes—to name some of the work they did to assist the residents. In all this, the students worked joyfully reflecting Christ’s love in their service to others.

The staff at Marydale was thrilled with the work of the students. The staff commented, "St. Mark’s has the BEST of the BEST youth! They were so polite, eager to help with the wide variety of jobs, and served with the spirit of Catholic/Christian Stewardship! Many thanks to you and the adults who selflessly gave of their time, talent and resources!"

All of the students commented on how appreciative the residents were. In reflections, students also made the following comments: “I learned that not everyone has people that come to visit them. Some people are very lonely, and our visits mean a lot to them.” “I learned that everyone has a different story.” “This trip showed me how to live my faith.” “Not everyone has an easy life.” “I do not want to forget the bonds made with students and teachers serving together.” “They appreciate what you do for them. Even if you don’t think it’s a lot, it’s a big deal for them.”

One student commented, "That being nice and caring is the key of a better life." What more can we asked from our students and of the world today!

Catholic Day of Action in Washington, DC

July 18th was Catholic Day of Action in Washington, DC. Numerous Catholic organizations, women and men religious and countless concerned citizens gathered to pray and protest the inhumane treatment of children and families at the U.S. southern border. Annmarie Sanders (Communications Director) and Carol Zinn (Executive Director) represented LCWR. Ruth Harkins accompanied a group of students from Catholic University of America and Donna Korba represented the IHM Congregation. The event began with prayer, reflections, and a message to Congress outside the Capitol Building. The participants processed to the Rotunda area of the Russell Senate Building where more than 60 people participated in civil disobedience, including a Sister of Mercy who is 90 years old.

More direct actions are being planned to put pressure on Congress and the administration.
Lights for Liberty Held in Downtown Scranton

On July 12th, Scranton joined the Lights for Liberty Silent Vigil where thousands of people across the nation went to immigration detention centers or gathered in public areas of their cities and towns to unite in prayer and stand against the inhumane treatment of refugees and immigrants at the U.S. southern border, especially the treatment of families and children. There was an event in Scranton at Courthouse Square which was organized by a concerned citizen, Cheryl Cerra and the IHM Sisters.

Associate Alejandra Marroquin was one of the speakers at the event. Postcards were made available to those who wished to send a message to the President and were sent via the IHM Office of JPIC. Materials were made available to IHM sisters and associates online and to sisters at OLP and the IHM Center.

Volunteers Help Land Restoration

On Wednesday, July 17th, young adults from St. John Neumann parish in South Scranton offered their services to the IHM Land Restoration project as part of their week-long service program. With the supervision of Father Ryan and Deacons Jonathon and Al, the young adults joined Sister Donna in cleaning and weeding the various rain gardens on the back end of the property. After a morning of hard work, the team joined the sisters for lunch before heading off to their afternoon service.

OLP Sisters Support St. Joe's Festival

Sisters at Our Lady of Peace Residence provided a necessary service to St. Joe's Auxiliary by getting the chances ready for the Sunday prize drawing at the St. Joseph's Center Festival. Pictured L-R around the table are: Sisters Celesta Sinisi, Catherine Anne Mullaly, Monica Byrne, Carleen Boelhert, Celeste Parry, Eleanor Desaulniers, and Theresa Fitzgerald.
IHM Directory Update
The online directory at www.sistersofihm.org

Barbara Nogiewich
Our Lady of Peace Residence
570-330-8547

Rachel Terry
St. Mary of Mt. Carmel
336 Chestnut Street
Dunmore, PA 18512
H 570-343-0778
C 240-481-8294

New Community
Our Lady of Peace Residence 4B
Sister Eileen Coleman
570-330-8522

Mary Elizabeth Ehling
570-330-8558
ehlingm@sistersofihm.org

Joyce Marks
570-330-8618

Lenore Thomas
570-330-8607

Raymond Mary McIntyre
570-330-8604
cell 570-877-2465

Reminder: Submit IHM Annals

Have you written your 2018-2019 Annals? Have you submitted your 2018-2019 Annals? You are history in the making! Please refer to the IHM website for guides and forms (especially the first page with names, residence and ministry information) at Sisters Only/Documents.

Submit Annals ELECTRONICALLY to archives@sistersofihm.org by August 31, 2019. If there are any questions, do not hesitate to email or phone 570-330-0206. Are you in arrears in sending annals? Please consider summarizing your lives of the last few years. Thank you in advance for your help in preserving our heritage!

God's covenant has been fulfilled

Contemplative Prayer
August 17, September 21

A communal experience of contemplative prayer is held the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the IHM Center chapel. All are invited to attend this time of centering prayer on Saturday, August 17 and September 21.

IHM Calendar

Liz McGill's Reception into the Novitiate
Sunday, September 8
3:00 p.m.

Advisory Board
Saturday, September 14

November 16-17
Community
Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM

April 3-5
Retreat Days
Liz Sweeney, SSJ

175th Anniversary of the Sisters of IHM
Thursday, July 16 to Sunday, July 19, 2020
Monroe, MI

IHM Congregation Vitae
as of August 2, 2019

Final Profession - 313
Temp. Professed - 1
Novice - 1
Candidate - 1

Sisters of St. Casimir Congregation Vitae

Final Profession - 43
Dear Sisters and Friends,
My heart is filled with deep gratitude for the many ways you reached out to me and my family during my father’s illness and at the time of his death. Your prayers, support and love have touched me. To those of you who sent emails and cards, mass remembrances and offerings of daily prayers, thank you. To those of you who attended my father’s viewing and funeral, your presence was such a support and blessing. It is at times such as this that I realize you are “my people” and I am forever grateful for you and our connection.
Deep Gratitude and Love,
Jan Novotka

Dear Sisters and Associates,
Thank you to each of you who surrounded me with support and prayer at the time of my revision and reconstruction surgery, during rehab, and now in continuing PT in the tender company of our Sisters at Our Lady of Peace. The road to healing is long but, because of you, so is my list of reasons for gratitude. I feel held in love, intention, and healing energy for the days ahead. You are each in my heart and prayer and I am profoundly grateful.

Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

Dear Sisters,
The family of Barbara Jean Lang thanks you for all the prayer enrollments, masses, memorial cards, and kind words upon the death of Barbara Jean. She was the oldest in the family, and her death was unexpected. Your prayers and support are a sign of God’s great love for each of us, and a reminder that we are never alone in our sorrow. As a member of this congregation, I felt the prayerful support of my sisters and friends who reached out to me in many special ways. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love,
Mary Ann Lang, IHM

Dear Sisters,
Many, many thanks for your cards, messages and offering of masses for my brother Gene.
As I learned so poignantly during his wake, he was deeply loved by hundreds, mentored so many, changed his industry and was generous in big and small ways. Your expressions of condolence which I have shared with my family have touched each of us.
Sincerely,
Ancilla Maloney, IHM and the Maloney family

The family of Barbara Jean Lang

Dear Sisters,
The IHM Jubilarians wish to thank all who celebrated their jubilees with them. Each jubilarian is grateful for the cards, mass intentions, gifts, along with the liturgy and dinner celebrated in their honor at the IHM Center on Sunday, July 28. May God bless you abundantly.

Notes of Gratitude

List of all deceased sisters by month and day: http://www.sistersofihm.org/who-we-are/ihm-member-directories/
Wakes and Funerals for Deceased IHM Sisters: http://www.ustream.tv/channel/ihm-tv
Profile of Sister Dolores M. Filicko, IHM by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM
A Woman of Integrity and Servant to the Truth

Elizabeth Ligda arrived from Slovakia in 1908 and met her future husband, John Filicko, in Wilkes Barre, PA and there they raised a family of five.

Born on September 13th, 1928, which was followed by the Feasts of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14th) and the feast of Our Lady of the Seven Dolors—the Patroness of Slovakia (September 15th), her parents honored this link to their Slovak Heritage by naming their youngest child “Dolores” at her Baptism ten days later. To this day, Dolores honors these three spiritual events as a completion to the celebration of her birthday.

For six years after graduation, Dolores worked in various office positions. Though dating during this time, she’d become convinced that she was called to a religious vocation. However, like all major life choices, there seems to be the big picture call—married, single, religious life—and the specific decision of a person or a congregation to commit to for life. The decision to become an IHM may not have happened if it wasn’t for a friendship with a school principal—Sister Maria Clement Buckley, IHM. Dolores was the secretary for the Parochial Child Health Association which provided medical care to diocesan schools. Friendly office phone calls were followed by an invitation to see the convent’s Christmas tree, to conversations about religious life, to a surprise formal visit to Marywood to meet Reverend Mother Marcella Gill, IHM, to Entrance Day on September 8, 1952!

Dolores spent 15 years teaching students from middle school through high school. During this time, Sister Dolores was sent to Notre Dame where she earned an MBA. Soon, Sister Dolores moved to Marywood College where she served in various positions for 39 years!

Many of Dolores’ positions begin with the word “Director”—from student accounts and dorm director through to registrar. There are few support service areas at Marywood that haven’t known her handprint. It’s clear that Dolores provided leadership to the departments that formed its backbone and assured the smooth running of the university plant itself. Though she completed her Marywood years as an executive officer as the secretary of the university, Dolores always appreciated the way her superiors shared their vision but allowed her the creativity to carry it out in her own areas.

It is perhaps in her roles as both secretary of the university and assistant secretary to the board of trustees that one can understand some of her greatest gifts and values. Secretaries take the meeting’s minutes, what is often not appreciated; however, is the great effort a good secretary makes to hold back her own opinion and be “a servant to the truth.” Entrusted with the university’s official seal and empowered to be the signatory on official documents, when researchers come to write this period of the university’s history, the name Sister Dolores M. Filicko, IHM will appear there with high frequency.

In her post-Marywood years, Dolores continued to provide support services to both Friends of the Poor and the IHM Center. She is now delighted to be retired and living at Our Lady of Peace Residence. In her own words, “My ship has come in!” She takes seriously her role as a prayer minister and enjoys the slower tempo and the freedom to choose which activities she does and does not attend. Most of all, she is consoled by the presence of round-the-clock medical support staff if needed.

I’m sure at the end of her days, people will remember Sister Dolores as a woman of integrity and a servant to the truth.