Liz McGill to be Received into IHM Novitiate

Sisters and IHM Associates, you are invited to attend Elizabeth Ann “Liz” McGill’s reception into the IHM Novitiate.

Date: September 8, 2019  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center.

After the ceremony, there will be refreshments and an opportunity to greet Liz. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to communications@sistersofihm.org by September 3.

MU Board of Trustees Meets

IHM sisters who serve as trustees on the Marywood University Board of Trustees gathered for a photo during the Board retreat, held August 23rd, at Glenmaura Country Club. L-R Sisters Mary Ann Cody, Kelly Quinn, Mary Elaine Anderson, Mary Persico, Ellen Maroney, and Kathleen Lunsmann.

Materials for Fall 2019 Dialogue Group Discussions

On the IHM sisters’ website under Visioning the Future, there are various resources which are listed below for consideration.

First, participants will find Mary Pellegrino’s Assembly presentation with questions for personal and communal reflections.

Second, group members will see posted the main and presidential addresses from the LCWR 2019 Assembly that were given by Sisters Pat Murray and Sharlet Wagner with corresponding reflection questions.

Finally, Sister Liz Sweeney has provided dialogue groups with an abundance of materials from her April retreat on “Embodying Love.” Groups are also welcome to remain with those materials for the dialogue group conversations.

Please notice in the Newsletter calendar, the weekend of November 16-17. Sister Mary Elaine Anderson will give a presentation titled, Called to be a Community of Disciples: Our Ever-Evolving Understanding of IHM Charism, Communion, and Communal Life. At that time sisters will have the opportunity to change dialogue groups once again.

Thank you to all of the sisters who use these resources for personal prayer and reflection and a special thank you to all dialogue group participants. The dialogue groups strengthen relationships with among members and enrich religious life among participants and beyond them.

Gratefully,
The Visioning the Future Committee
Mission Circles Plants Trees in Memory of Members

During IHM Assembly days the Great Spirit Mission Circle planted and blessed two pink dogwood trees outside the IHM Center in memory of their Sisters Michel Keenan and Mary Ellen Merrick. May they rest in peace.

Food for Kids in the Andes
by Sister Ancilla Maloney, IHM

A few months ago, Sister Elizabeth Ruiz Rojas, a Peruvian religious of the Sacred Heart approached me for some help. She runs an alternative high school in her village of Layo, high in the Andes. On Thursday mornings her teenage students begin walking to the school over the mountains, some beginning as early as 4:00 a.m. to get to school in Layo by 9:00 a.m. They come with a bag of potatoes for their food for two days. When school is over on Friday, they return to their homes. The families in the village host the students for Thursday night, but they too are poor. (There are no high schools in the mountain regions and students have to come down to the city of Sicuani for high school).

Sister Elizabeth tries to beg and/or buy fruit and vegetables for the students, but she needs more help to do this. I wrote to a branch of the Pontifical Association for the Missions called Missio and sent them a proposal which they have accepted.

If you and your friends would like to help (imagine having nothing but bread and potatoes to eat for two days!): To donate, click on https://tinyurl.com/y2bkmmow

Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
Saturday, September 14, 2019
OLPH Conference Room

9:00 a.m.
Open Session
Welcome/Announcements
Prayer: Gail Cabral
9:20 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Feedback from Assembly: S. Lisa Perkowski
Report on Committees: S. Katie Clauss
10:15 a.m. Break
10:35 a.m.– Noon
Discussion on 2 Critical Issues: Mark Clarke
1. Environment: S. Donna Korba
   - Describe the next two to three important next steps to achieve the direction?
   - Describe what is needed from membership to support the forward movement of this direction?
2. Relationships: S. Mary Ellen Higgins and Jane O’Neill
   - Describe the next two to three important next steps to achieve the direction?
   - Describe what is needed from membership to support the forward movement of this direction?

Observers, please register at communications@sistersofihm.org
Deisy and Aisha by Jeffrey Smith

During the summer, the IHM Sisters, through the ministry of Sister Katie Sitja y Balbastro at Hour Children in Long Island City, NY, have entered into the life of a young family from Guatemala.

In July, Sister Katie and the IHM Congregation were invited by Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, C.S.J., Executive Director of Hour Children, to consider providing legal guardianship of Deisy, age 19, and her daughter, Aisha, age 3. Deisy and Aisha had been given a home in one of Hour Children’s communal residences for women and children, but they were in need of a guardian in order to move forward their request for legal residency in the United States.

After consultation with Sister Ellen Maroney, president, it was agreed that Sister Katie and the IHM Congregation would provide support to them for two years, until Deisy turns 21. At this point, if her residency request has not yet been resolved, she will be able to pursue it independently as a legal adult.

As legal guardian, Sister Katie checks in regularly with Deisy, making sure that she and Aisha are healthy and happy; feel comfortable in the house; stay focused on their goals and have everything they need. She connects them with Hour Children’s supportive resources, and offers practical solutions to setbacks when they arise.

The days are busy for both mother and daughter. Each morning, Deisy drops Aisha off at Hour Early Learning Program, Hour Children’s licensed day care center. She goes on to Hour Working Women Program, our onsite workforce re-entry program, where she takes part in computer classes and job training seminars. A big part of Deisy’s day is spent honing her skills in two languages. As a native speaker of Mam, an indigenous Guatemalan language, Deisy is receiving tutoring in Spanish as well as English with the goal of becoming proficient in both.

The ministry of legal guardianship is a beautiful and practical reflection of our IHM mission of providing joyful, loving, hospitable, and self-emptying service to the people of God, manifesting concern, service and advocacy for the economically poor.

Why not consider sharing in this work on a personal level? If your heart is moved by the plight of young people and children entering this country with the hope of a better life, please get involved. Here are some ways you can help.

Write to Deisy and Aisha in English or Spanish. Letters and cards can be sent to them in care of: Sister Katie Sitja y Balbastro, IHM, My Mother’s House, 36-30 12th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106

Donate new or gently-used clothing, toys, books, toddler supplies or gift cards. These can also be sent to them in care of Sister Katie at the above address.

Meet Deisy and Aisha. If you find yourself in the New York City area and would like to meet Deisy and Aisha, contact Sister Katie. You are most welcome to tour Hour Children as well.

Invite Deisy and Aisha to your convent or to the IHM Center in Scranton. This is a way of showing them that we as a congregation and as Americans stand with and welcome them.

Donate to Hour Children. You can make a secure e-donation by visiting www.hourchildren.org or by sending a check to: Hour Children, 36-11 12th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106
IHM 175th Anniversary
July 16 – July 19, 2020
Monroe, Michigan

Preparation for Looking Back

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.

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?

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.

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.

From the IHM Archives

Father Gillet's Reconnection with the Sisters of IHM

During the persecution of religious orders in France in the 1860s, two friends in the Visitandine congregation in Moselle, France, went their separate ways in fear for their vocations. One was accepted into the IHM congregation in Reading PA and was received as Sister Clotilde. Her entrance into the IHMs was foretold during confession with St. John Vianney who stated that she would cross the sea and be accepted into a congregation that wore a blue habit.

Sister Clotilde’s friend, Sister Marie Stephanie, after the expulsion of the sisters from their convent in France, entered the Cistercian order. Upon her arrival she was met by Sister Marie Celestine, the mistress of novices, also the sister of Pere Marie Celestin. Sister Clotilde and Sister Marie Stephanie corresponded for many years. Occasionally Pere Marie Celestine was mentioned as the chaplain at Reillanne where Sister Marie Stephanie resided. Suspicions were aroused that Pere Marie Celestin might be Father Gillet and in 1888 Sister Clotilde’s nephew, Father Cesaire, a Cistercian, stationed at the Cistercian motherhouse in Lerins, began an inquiry.

Sister Clotilde obtained a copy of the Michigan Catholic (the Detroit diocesan newspaper, issue of December 25, 1890, which contained an article about the 45th anniversary of the founding of the IHMs with a picture of Gillet and the first cabin). Sister Clotilde sent this issue to her nephew requesting him to forward it to Pere Marie Celestin. Celestin received the paper in 1891 with amazement and joy as he realized that the congregation he helped found was thriving. Pere Marie Celestin was consoled for the rest of his life knowing that the Sisters of IHM were thriving and spreading the Gospel. Pere Marie Celestin died a holy death on November 14, 1892. His last letter written November 4 to Sister Clotilde is treasured among the IHM Archives of Immaculata.

Pere Marie Celestin Gillet, OCR made his solemn vows on September 8, 1859, 160 years ago.
Vocation Office Update by Sister Mindy Welding, IHM

NRVC and CARA study of recent vocation to religious life

One of the major goals of NRVC (National Religious Vocation Conference) this past year was to conduct a follow-up study to its groundbreaking 2009 Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life, which set the benchmark for tracking vocation trends in the 21st century. Board members of NRVC were asked to host focus groups in various areas of the country to help with the numbers of respondents. Mindy Welding, IHM, vocation director and NRVC Board member, recently hosted the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) study focus groups in Philadelphia and Baltimore. CARA has been exceptionally pleased both with the great number of responses to the survey and the number of members willing to participate in the focus groups needed to substantiate the survey research.

NRVC announced November 8, 2018, that, thanks to a generous grant from the GHR Foundation, the study will commence and the results will be published in early 2020. CARA will be providing the surveys to women and men who have entered religious life between the years of 2003 and 2018.

The primary objective of this new study is to provide an accurate picture of the current realities of religious life, outline updated best practices in inviting men and women to religious life, and project the potential impact of today’s trends on the future of religious life and on Catholic social services and ministries managed, directed, and sponsored by religious institutes.

With support and input from sociologists and collaborating organizations, NRVC is confident that the 2020 study will expand the body of knowledge on religious life, not only for the sake of consistent social science but for the purpose of providing NRVC members and all those who promote vocations with clarity on the demographics and characteristics of newer entrants to religious life, what attracts and sustains membership in religious life, and information on changing and emerging trends.

The goals of the 2020 study are:

- To gather data on newer members from 2003 to 2018 about what attracted and sustains them in religious life in comparison to entrants from 1994-2009 who were tracked in the 2009 NRVC/CARA study.
- To outline the challenges and opportunities for vocation ministers and religious leadership as they invite the next generation to religious life.
- To identify the trends and best practices for the Church in promoting vocations to religious life in the United States as identified by this study.
- To energize the baptismal call of all members of the Catholic Church to choose a life path that enables them to live holy and joyful lives by integrating the best practices of vocational discernment that will be highlighted in the study.

Like the 2009 study, the 2020 study will provide data-backed information about religious life and how to dispel myths and misconceptions, to offer a roadmap for religious institutes and the wider church on the way to successfully invite young people to consider religious life, to assist parishes and schools in promoting religious vocations, and to enable religious institutes to continue to welcome new members.
2019 Sisters Celebration

On Saturday, August 3, 2019, at Nazareth Hall on the campus of Marywood University, the Sisters of IHM Foundation hosted a special event to benefit the IHM Sisters Retirement Fund. Over 200 guests attended the event which raised more than $65,000 in support of the retirement needs of the sisters. Paul and Anne Falzett were honored with the 2019 Spirit of IHM Award in recognition of the time and financial support they have provided to many Scranton community nonprofits and Catholic schools.

Silver Circle

Sellers, please return your Silver Circle membership tickets to the development office as soon as you can. The first drawing will be held October 16, 2019. When reaching out to family and friends this year, consider asking neighbors, co-workers, former students, and parishioners to become Silver Circle sellers. If you are not a Silver Circle seller yet, consider this: a yearly membership is only $25 and there are 36 chances to win monthly from October through June. With a total of $30,600 in cash prizes awarded, you, your family, and your friends do not want to miss this opportunity! Visit www.SistersofIHM.org/SilverCircle or call 570 346-5431 for more information.

IHMs Awarded Grant

The Catholic Human Services Foundation recently awarded the IHM Congregation $12,000. This funding was used to replace the IHM Center’s main entrance doors and locks plus rewire the current credential readers. Part of the same project included the reconfiguration of Sister Kate Clancy’s office, where visitors are granted access and sign in and out of the building. The new doors allow for observation before visitors are granted access resulting in enhancement of the safety and security of sister residents and IHM employees.
DURING THE SUMMER, THE WOMEN IN INITIAL FORMATION WERE INVOLVED IN A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, RETREATS, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES. THE DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES PROVIDED WAYS FOR EACH WOMAN TO USE HER UNIQUE GIFTS AND TALENTS AND TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING SPIRITUALLY, PSYCHO-SOCIALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

CURRENTLY, THE IHM CONGREGATION HAS THREE WOMEN IN INITIAL FORMATION: CANDIDATE ELIZABETH “LIZ” MCGILL, NOVICE SISTER GIOVANA “GIO” FUENTES BENDIVEZ AND TEMPORARY PROFESSIONED SISTER ELIZABETH DEMERCHANT. ALTHOUGH MANY ACTIVITIES ARE UNIQUE TO EACH WOMAN’S STAGE OF FORMATION, DURING THE FALL, ELIZABETH, GIO AND LIZ WILL ATTEND SOME CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS TOGETHER. SISTER CATHERINE LUXNER WILL BE GIVING A COURSE ON MARIAN THEMES TO GIO AND LIZ ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS. ELIZABETH WILL JOIN LIZ AND GIO FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THE THREE INTER-COMMUNITY FORMATION WEEKENDS IN THE FALL. THE TOPICS AND THE PRESENTERS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- SEE I AM CREATING ALL THINGS NEW (PRESENTED BY MARY CATHERINE REDMOND, PBVM)
- ST. PAUL (PRESENTED BY NOEL KELLER, RSM)
- GRACED COMPANIONSHIP AND THE FORMATIVE PROCESS (PRESENTED BY MARY PAT GARVIN, RSM)

LIZ IS TRANSITIONING FROM CANDIDACY TO THE NOVITIATE; SHE WILL BE RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 8. AS A NOVICE, LIZ WILL PARTICIPATE WEEKLY IN THE INTER-NOVITIATE FORMATION PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE DELAWARE VALLEY AREA OF THE RELIGIOUS FORMATION CONFERENCE. THE COURSE TITLED THE BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL AND SPIRITUAL ROOTS OF CONSECRATED LIFE WILL BE Taught BY ELLEN MURRAY, RSM, AND WILL BE HELD AT IMMACULATA, PA.

LIZ ALSO WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO AUDIT AN ONLINE COURSE CALLED RELIGIOUS LIFE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: CREATING COMMUNITIES OF HOPE ON A GLOBAL SCALE, WHICH WILL BE TAUGHT BY MARIA CIMPERMAN, RSCJ, AT CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION, CHICAGO. SISTERS RUTH HARKINS AND DORA VIZCARRA WILL AUDIT THE SAME COURSE AND WILL ENGAGE LIZ IN A DIALOGUE ABOUT THE COURSE EVERY TWO WEEKS. IN ADDITION TO THE CLASSES ALREADY MENTIONED, LIZ WILL RECEIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE FROM SISTER EILEEN EGAN, AND SHE WILL STUDY COMMUNITY LIFE, THE VOWS AND THE IHM CONSTITUTIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF NOVICES.

DURING THE FALL, LIZ WILL CONTINUE TO VOLUNTEER A FEW HOURS WEEKLY AT ST. JOSEPH CENTER AND OUR LADY OF PEACE. SHE ALSO WILL SERVE ON TWO CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES: VITAL LIVING AND EARTH CARE.

GIOVANA, WHO PRESENTLY IS A CANONICAL NOVICE, WILL TRANSITION INTO THE APOSTOLIC YEAR OF HER NOVITIATE NEAR THE END OF OCTOBER. SHE WILL VOLUNTEER ONE DAY A WEEK AT FRIENDS OF THE POOR, CONTINUE TO SERVE ON THE VITAL LIVING COMMITTEE AND BE PART OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO PLAN FOR AND GATHER WITH THE SPANISH-SPEAKING CIRCLE OF GRACE.

DURING THE FALL, GIOVANA WILL CONCENTRATE ON HER ENGLISH GRAMMAR, PRONUNCIATION, WRITING, READING AND CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS. SISTERS LEONNETTE BOWER, MICHAEL MARIE HARTMAN, MARY NEWETT AND MARIE LOURDES VANSTON ARE WILLING AND COMMITTED TEACHERS, AND TOGETHER THEY WILL PROVIDE THE INTENSIVE ENGLISH THAT GIOVANA DESIRES TO IMPROVE HER ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS.
Profile of Sister St. Mel Wright, IHM
by Sisters Patt Walsh and Mary Ellen Malloy

“I don’t know her name…but…I know she’s my best friend.” At Our Lady of Peace Residence at least twenty-five percent of the sisters aren’t able to tell me their stories. They have set off on that “long journey home” known as dementia. Unless, of course, your name is Sister St. Mel Wright and you have a “best friend” in Sister Mary Ellen Malloy who can serve as your living memory.

Barbara Catherine Wright is the sixth of Catherine and Leland Burgess Wright’s seven children. When Mel was four her mother, pregnant with her seventh child—Jimmy—took a fall. Mrs. Wright was physically disabled for the rest of her life. Thus, at an early age, Mel learned how to teach the young and care for the old.

Barbara attended St. Bernadine’s School in Baltimore and was trained by the IHMs—including a Sister Kathleen who went on to become Mother Kathleen Hart, IHM Superior General.

Mel experienced death early. Her parents travelled to a Virginia Naval Base when Mel’s oldest brother, Jack, set off for WWII Europe. By the time they returned to Baltimore, they learned that Jack’s ship had been bombed by the Germans and he was dead. In the ‘80s, Mel’s youngest brother, Jimmy, was a victim of a hit and run. But the greatest trauma of all was Mel’s mother’s death when Mel was a junior in high school.

As an IHM, Mel ministered as a first and second grade teacher. Her first mission was St. Ephrem’s in Brooklyn and there she met Mary Ellen Malloy who came to the convent to speak to the sisters about becoming a sister. Mary Ellen says their friendship was “love at first sight”—a bonding of opposites—the loud and the quiet!

Throughout her life, Sister St. Mel showed her versatility and leadership in a series of ministries. Mel left teaching first grade to become the Directress of Postulants at St. Rocco’s Convent in Pittston. However, she never quite adjusted to using her primary teaching skills to train young adult women!

She was then elected Western Sector Superior. Next, St. Mel moved to Cresco to be trained in spiritual direction. Then she got a phone call from Sister Redempta Sweeney about a “dream job.” Mel loved the older sisters and she’d always wanted to work at the Marian Convent. She was going to be responsible for the sisters’ direct care needs. One wonders what Mel thought when she noticed her own initial signs of dementia having companioned so many sisters on that journey.

Mary Ellen wanted a picture of Anne Boylan, currently the second floor day shift nurse, with this article because Mel has been so proud of Anne. Anne believes Mel cared for all the staff. She related how, in winter weather, staff arrived with overnight bags and Mel greeted them at the door. She’d already prepared their rooms each with a basket of treats! Mel later carried on that practice at the IHM Center. Remember her when you enjoy those snacks! Anne says the staff were so grateful that Mel started her long journey home on second floor. They love #St.Melhugs—that’s “twitter-ese” for St. Mel Hugs & Kisses! Finally, Anne concluded, “Well, maybe it was because she knew I was a single mother.” Ah!

These days Mel spends time looking through her pictures and visiting Mary Ellen’s room. I’m jealous of Mary Ellen. She can still get Mel to smile. But, Mary Ellen immediately and sincerely answers, “That’s enough for me!” Smiles, more than sixty 60 years’ worth of memories, including a trip to Ireland and a visit to St. Mel’s Cathedral, and a “holy story” recorded for posterity! Amen!
Dear Sisters and Associates,

It is with deep gratitude that I thank you, on behalf of those we serve, for your generous donations during IHM Assembly.

You filled our hearts with joy and our truck with donations of clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, and other items for our families, along with items to be recycled.

Joining together to serve others is a true blessing. Your kindness made a difference in the lives of those we serve.

I am humbled by your continued support. Please know that you remain in our prayers as we continue to advance the mission set forth by the beloved Sister Adrian Barrett, IHM.

Thank you for being a friend of the poor.

Meghan Loftus,
President &
CEO Friends of the Poor

As of August 26, 178 sisters have engaged in developing a Vital Living Plan with the assistance of one of the Vital Living Specialists. The Specialists will continue to schedule appointments in the months ahead. The goal is for every sister to develop her self-directed Vital Living Plan by January 2020.

Response to the completion of the Princeton UMat- ter Wellness survey has been very good so far. The survey completion deadline is September 11. Every survey counts!

In addition, Giovana will meet regularly with the director of novices to dialogue about her experience of balancing the different dimensions of religious life—spirituality, community, ministry and leisure—and to study the vows and IHM Constitutions.

Elizabeth is in her second year of temporary profession. She lives with the IHM Sisters at Maria House in South Scranton. This year Elizabeth will be teaching the following classes at All Saints Academy: reading to students in the Individualized Instruction Program, religion to fifth through eighth grade, social studies to seventh grade and computer to eighth grade. She is an active and passionate member of two congregation committees: EarthCARE and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

This fall Elizabeth has asked several IHM sisters to accompany her in her spiritual and psycho-social development. Sister Susan Hadzima will be exploring prayer with Elizabeth, and Sister Rose Kelly will be teaching her about Celtic Spirituality. Sister Catherine Gilvary will be instructing Elizabeth on the Enneagram and the nine interconnected personality types.

All three women—Liz, Giovana and Elizabeth—are active in their mission circles, contemplative dialogue groups and monthly evenings of prayer.

**Formation continued from page 7**

Economy's good. Or is it bad?
Guns, graft, greed. The whole world is sad.
Can we disagree yet live as one?
"We're too old," we say. "Our work is done."
With every issue much larger than life,
How can one person relieve the strife?
We've prayed for one. We've prayed for all.
No positive effort we deem too small.
All our lives we've tried to care.
Toward myriad charities we've tried to share.
So the words challenge: Their refuge. Our wall.
Shall we argue the issue? Shall we respond to this call?
Collecting money is yet another way.
We've already donated we can very well say.
I'm conflicted to ask you again to give.
But your dollar may help a child to live.
Mothers and children, kith and kin.
The Good Shepherd Sisters take them in.
Send to IHM Sisters your check for dollar or two
Or give cash to Vincentia and she'll see it gets through.
It's for Sisters-to-Sisters and may God bless you!

---

**A Doggerel**

Economy's good. Or is it bad?
Guns, graft, greed. The whole world is sad.
Can we disagree yet live as one?
"We're too old," we say. "Our work is done."
With every issue much larger than life,
How can one person relieve the strife?
We've prayed for one. We've prayed for all.
No positive effort we deem too small.
All our lives we've tried to care.
Toward myriad charities we've tried to share.
So the words challenge: Their refuge. Our wall.
Shall we argue the issue? Shall we respond to this call?
Collecting money is yet another way.
We've already donated we can very well say.
I'm conflicted to ask you again to give.
But your dollar may help a child to live.
Mothers and children, kith and kin.
The Good Shepherd Sisters take them in.
Send to IHM Sisters your check for dollar or two
Or give cash to Vincentia and she'll see it gets through.
It's for Sisters-to-Sisters and may God bless you!
Spiritual Practices:
The Poor in Spirit
Thursday September 13
10:30 am to 12:00 noon
Blessed are the poor in Spirit—those who depend on God’s grace in a spirit of humility.
Ann Barbara DeSiano, IHM
Free Will Donation

Sunday to Sunday
Mondays, Sept 23 to November 25
10:00 to 11:30 am
Join us for an historical, literal, and spiritual exploration of the upcoming Sunday readings.
Tony Marinelli
Free Will Donation

OLG Book Club
Wednesdays, October 2 and 30
10:00 - 11:30 am
Falling Upward by Richard Rohr
Prayer, discussion and reflection on the rich topics in this book as we explore our own spiritual adventures and insights.
Sheila Kutner
Free Will Donation

The Silent Magic of Meditation
Wednesday, October 9 to November 13, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Discover the unique meditation practices of Anthony DeMello, SJ using his “Wellsprings” and “Sadhana.” Includes guided meditations, awareness exercises, and discussion.
Karen Starr Venturini & Desmond Towey, DeMello Stroud Spirituality Center Trustees
Free Will Donation

Spiritual Practices:
Those Who Mourn
Thursday October 10
10:30 am to - 12:00 noon
Blessed are those who mourn, who learn to open their heavy hearts to a loving God and come to understand that their grieving is not without hope and comfort.
Ann Barbara DeSiano, IHM
Free Will Donation

My Rosary—My Life
Tuesday, October 15
9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Come join us as we meditate, pray & share our love for Mary & the rosary. Bring your rosary beads and your stories!
Diane Rizzo
$25

Spiritual Practices:
The Meek
Thursday, November 13
10:30 am to 12:00 noon
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. To be meek is not to be weak but instead the humble and gentle champions of the oppressed.
Ann Barbara DeSiano, IHM
Free Will Donation

Mind the Gap:
Life Transitions
Saturday, November 9
9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Learn how to make your way through some of biggest challenges life throws at us & discover ways to bridge these gaps.
Joan McGovern
Cost: $35 (includes lunch)

Spiritual Practices:
Hunger & Thirst
Thursday, December 12
10:30 am to 12:00 noon
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be fulfilled.
Ann Barbara DeSiano, IHM
Free Will Donation

Women’s Advent Retreat
The Mysteries of Advent
Friday, December 13 from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Join us in exploring how the mysteries of advent mirror the mysteries of our own lives.
Pat McDonough, Sheila Kutner, Fr. Jim Donovan, SJ
$175, $125 commuter

MONTHLY OFFERINGS
DeMello Spirituality Group
Pat Cucia, IHM Associate
Mondays: September 30, October 21, November 25, December 23
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm (Donation $10)

Joan Chittister Study Group
Pat Cucia, IHM Associate
Tuesdays: September 24, October 15, November 19, December 17
12:00 to 2:00 pm (Donation $10)

Divine Mercy Prayer and Healing Service
Br. Paul Miller, OFS
Wednesdays: September 4, October 2, November 13, December 4
7:00 to 9:00 pm (Free Will Donation)

Advance Registration Required
Interdependence Day: Focus on Climate Change

This year the annual Interdependence Day program will focus on the urgent issue of Climate Change. The event will take place on Thursday, September 12 at the University of Scranton. Entitled “Climate Change: What Can We Do?” the program will feature an intergenerational panel discussion. It is scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and is located at the Rose Room, on the fifth floor of Brennan Hall. Attendance is free; reservations are made by calling Linda Walsh at 570-941-7520 or emailing her at linda.walsh@scranton.edu

Racial Equity Training

On August 19 and 20, Marywood University was the site of a two-day program for university personnel on structural racism and its impact on the entire US society. The team, Suzanne Plihcik and Pete Davis, from the Racial Equity Training Institute in Greensboro, NC, instructed the group on the historical development of racism in our country, including facts that had not been included in the history taught in most schools. By tracing the accumulating privilege enjoyed by white persons over the centuries, the team assisted the participants to recognize the continuing reality of white dominance, and the resulting oppression of persons of color. Additional programs addressing racism are planned for the campus community.

Human Trafficking in High Definition

A two-day workshop was held at the Hilton in Scranton on August 22 and 23 providing information and skill development to help the participants to identify and, if possible, rescue persons caught in sexual trafficking within Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania. The workshop was sponsored by The Children’s Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and conducted by Marlene Carson and Sheila Oramae White, both of whom had been able to escape the trafficking system themselves. The range of ages and personal circumstances that bring individuals into the system was highlighted, with special focus on the understanding that they need to be acknowledged as victims and not criminals. The team provided guidance on effective ways to assist the victims.

 Retreat: A Pilgrimage with Mary

A retreat was conducted by Sister Anna Tantsits, IHM and Father Peter Chepaitis, OFM for the Albany Sisters of Mercy at their Motherhouse August 11-16. The title of the retreat was "A Pilgrimage with Mary, Mystic and Prophet." Sister Anna and Father Peter made available for the sisters’ use books and articles on Mary that were pertinent to each retreat presentation. They also used hymns/songs/dvds as well as puppets that emphasized each theme and the role of Mary mystic and prophet.

A Request for Research Assistance

Dear Sisters,

I am asking for your assistance for two projects I am working on. One is the contact information for three of the four women of color who were in our IHM Congregation. I have had no difficulty obtaining the address of Rosalind Gray, but I cannot locate the three others: Carolyn Geraldine Cromwell, Sharon Lee Gray, and Gladys Thompson. If you can help me with any of these women’s contact information, I would be most grateful.

For some years I have been collecting material for an article about our sister Kathy Toner. In the years when she became ill, she wrote some wonderful letters addressed to all the sisters. If you saved one of them and can send me a copy, that would be a great help. Thanks for whatever help you can provide on either of these searches.

Margaret Gannon

gannon@marywood.edu
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!

---

IHM Congregation Vitae
as of August 31, 2019

Final Profession - 312
Temp. Professed - 1
Novice - 1
Candidate - 1

Sisters of St. Casimir Congregation Vitae

Final Profession - 43

---

Contemplative Prayer
September 21

A communal experience of contemplative prayer will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the IHM Center chapel on September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21. All are invited to attend this time of centering prayer on Saturday, September 21.

Sister Gloria Frank, IHM
August 18, 2019
in the 66th year
of her religious profession

---

IHM Directory Update

The online directory at www.sistersofihm.org

Josephine Cioffi
Our Lady of Peace Residence
570-330-8533

Rosemary Goulet
Please use her cell phone number only: 609 234 9628

Carole Griffin
Cell 570-332-4490

As of September 1, Chris Koellhoffer is no longer using her landline. Please use her cell phone number only: 201-424-6848

Claire Marie Kulp
Our Lady of Peace Residence
570-330-8509

Ann Newell
Our Lady of Peace Residence
570-330-8566

Joan Quinn
Cathedral Convent
333 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503-1223
570-344-9725

---

IHM Calendar

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

Advisory Board
Saturday, September 14
9:00 a.m. OLPH

November 16-17
Called to be a Community of Disciples: Our Ever-Evolving Understanding of IHM Charism, Communion and Communal Life
Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM

April 3-5
Retreat Days
Liz Sweeney, SSJ
Notes of Gratitude

The cards, prayers, mass intentions, phone calls from the sisters, staff and friends have meant so much to me over the past few months. Those well wishes and prayers are the reason I can do what I can today. I continue to heal and look forward to the day I will be able to walk by myself again. Thank you all for your unconditional support and encouragement as I take my new steps into the future.

Janet Milan, IHM

The Kilmer family wishes to thank all for the visits, masses, and extensions of sympathy at the time of our mother's funeral.

The family of Louis Steck would like to thank all those who have been so supportive during this time of loss through your prayers, Masses and cards. It is humbling to be part of such a wonderful Congregation, especially in times of sorrow and joy.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your families.

The family of Doctor Jeffrey Marino thanks you for your words of condolence, prayers, masses, and enrollments. Two unexpected deaths in nine months seemed almost impossible to overcome. I, and my sister-in-law, Jinny, were able to be sustained through your kindnesses and our deep Faith. Thank you.

Sister Flo Marino, IHM

My deepest thanks and gratitude for your prayers, well wishes and heartfelt concern for me this past year during my surgeries and treatments. I ask your continued prayers as I slowly make my way toward good health.

Rose Marie Mozzachio, IHM

It is impossible to put into words our gratitude for all that you have done for Margo and for our entire family. Your care, concern, kindness and outreach as well as your condolences have been overwhelming. God bless you every second of every day.

Love,
The family of Sister Margo McCormick—Pat and Steve, Mary Ellen and Brian, Kathy and Dave, and children

Theresa’s Treasure

The next due date for applications for Theresa’s Treasure funding is October 1, 2019. The application form can be found on the congregation website.

NEW on the IHM Web

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
City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert
Reviewed by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

There are books you read that you like and then there are books you read that you remember. Like Elizabeth Gilbert’s *Eat, Pray, Love, City of Girls* is definitely a book I’ll remember for a long time.

*City of Girls* is written as a letter by an 89 year old woman – Vivian Morris – to a woman named Angela (“...given that my mother has passed away, I wonder if you might now feel comfortable telling me what you were to my father?”) Instead, Vivian is willing to tell Angela what he was to her.

Vivian has just flunked out of Vassar and her family sends her to New York City to live with her Aunt Peg who owns the Lily Playhouse. Vivian’s grandmother has taught her to be a seamstress and she travels with her own sewing machine.

The Lily presents Vaudeville-type musicals. Peg and her “friend” Olive met in Europe during WWI (along with Peg’s husband, Billy Buell). Billy wrote the shows, Peg directed them and Olive managed the books. When Vivian arrives, Peg and Olive have purchased the Lily but Billy has moved on to LA.

Though plot is always essential, Gilbert’s great gift is her ability to create complex and fascinating characters. Perhaps no one has a greater impact on Vivian’s life than the great English stage actress, Edna Parker Watson. Edna arrives because her home has been bombed by the Germans and the Watson’s are homeless. Peg wants a show equal to Edna’s talents – which she’s titled *City of Girls*. Peg’s staff isn’t up to the task so Vivian’s Uncle Billy arrives to save the day. The musical is a critical success with Edna as its star! Tragically, Vivian becomes involved in a scandal with Edna’s husband and she decides her only choice is to go home. Her brother – in training at a nearby naval base – finds a friend with a car and takes her home.

Angela does return to NYC helping Peg with shows for WWII soldiers. In the 50s Vivian designs a new type of costume – wedding gowns. And, Angela’s father makes his “formal” arrival. Their relationship is more than “touching” and all the more significant because of the past life experiences each brings to these moments.

Vivian ends her letter with an unexpected invitation to Angela. Though given the life she’s had, it shouldn’t be so surprising. Elizabeth Gilbert has created a series of “cities” peopled with characters that will touch your heart. Should you choose to read it, like me, I’m sure you’ll long remember it.

---

Healing Racism Workshop Talks Available

Recordings of this summer’s OSP IHM Healing Racism Workshop: Claiming Our Racial Narrative facilitated by Sister Anita Baird, DHM, the 2018 recipient of LCWR Leadership Award, are now available on the IHM Sisters Only website.

To access these videos

1. Log into the Sisters Only website
2. Click on the Committees link in the black bar at the top of the page (On a phone, click on Navigate/Search, then Committees)
3. Click on the OSP IHM Healing Racism link
4. Click on the link: Claiming Our Racial Narrative Workshop Videos

The link will take you to a YouTube channel with all the videos from the workshop.