It was a day of rejoicing and celebration on October 26 in the chapel of Bon Secours Maria Manor in St. Petersburg, FL, when Rose Coryn, Mary Lynn Delfino, Amy Kinnard, Sheri Scheutzow, and Jane Shafer were commissioned as IHM Associates. Also, Beverly Capanna and Joan Morey renewed the commitment they first made on January 29, 2012. All IHM Associates witness to the IHM core values and charism in their daily lives. Sister Flo Marino facilitated Beverly’s and Joan’s Circle of Grace. Sisters Lisa Perkowski and Flo have been guiding Rose, Mary Lynn, Amy, Sheri and Jane for the past two years as they prepared to be commissioned. The IHM Congregation surrounds these women with prayer and friendship as together all move forward to witness to the IHM core values and charism in their daily lives.

Pictured L-R front: Lisa Perkowski, IHM, Joan Morey, Beverly Capanna, and Flo Marino, IHM. L-R back: Rose Coryn, Amy Kinnard, Sheri Scheutzow, Jane O’Neill, Mary Lynn Delfino, Jane Shafer, and Ellen Maroney, IHM

New IHM Associates Commissioned in St. Petersburg, Florida

Founders’ Day Dinner and Prayer

Wednesday

November 13

Dinner: 5:00 p.m.
Theresa Maxis
Conference Center

Prayer and Commissioning of IHM Associates
6:30 p.m.
IHM Center Chapel

All are welcome!

Those planning to attend MUST RSVP by November 6:
communications@sistersofihm.org
570-346-5404

Theresa Maxis

Louis Gillet
IHM 175th Anniversary
July 17 – July 20, 2020
Monroe, Michigan

Drawing from the fire of Louis Florent Gillet, CSsR and Theresa Maxis Duchemin, IHM that fuels our work in mission, the 175th gathering will create an environment of opportunities in which to build functional, sustainable, cross-community relationships as a bridge to the future with hope.

As part of our year of celebrations, a representative group of our OSP and IHM members will gather and participate in a process including prayer, listening, dialogue, planning for our shared future, and of course, celebration! This representative group will be composed of approximately 240 members across the four congregations (75 from each of the IHM congregations and 15 from the Oblate Sisters of Providence).

We will gather from Friday evening, July 17 until noon on Monday, July 20, 2020. This four-day experience will begin with a keynote by Teresa Maya, CCVI, who will help us engage with each other to create our new narrative.

In addition to the gathering in Monroe, opportunities will be available for simultaneous remote participation at these satellite sites: Baltimore, Scranton, and Immaculata. The details of satellite participation will follow.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your interest and availability to participate in this process, whether in Monroe, at satellite locations, or by prayerful support. For planning purposes, the deadline for completing the form indicating your preference is January 15, 2020. Registration materials and lodging information will be made available in February with a registration deadline of April 1.

Sankofa is a Ghanaian word that translates “Go back and fetch it” and also refers to a symbol of a bird with its head turned backwards while its feet face forward carrying a precious egg in its mouth. The Sankofa bird represents the need to reflect on the past in order to build a successful future. The fire represents the energy of the past that will carry us into the future.

It is the Sankofa that inspires our reflection on our past as IHM and Oblate sisters, celebrating a spirit of unity while moving into our shared future as we prepare for the 175th anniversary of our IHM founding.

Remembering St. Mary’s Seminary
St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Paca Street, Baltimore, commemorated its closure 50 years ago (1791-1969). Father John Kemper, P.S.S., Provincial Superior, invited Sister Suzanne Delaney, IHM and Sister Marcia Hall, OSP to attend the gathering and play a role in the prayer service because of the Sulpician connection with Mother Mary Lange and Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin through Fr. James Hector Joubert. Some alumni from the Paca Street campus gave reflections on their experience at the seminary. To hear these reflections, go to: http://stmaryspacast.org/our-history/musings-from-paca-street/
MU President Addresses CUEA Graduates

On Friday, September 24, Sister Mary Persico gave the graduation address to more than 2100 students at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya. Sister Mary was invited to be the guest of honor at the 38th graduation of CUEA by Father Stephen Mbugua Ngari, Vice Chancellor of the University. Among the graduates were 70 Sisters from Eastern and Central Africa, who received degrees because of their association with ASEC, an IHM congregation ministry co-sponsored with Marywood and three other institutions of higher education and their respective congregations of women religious. The African sisters who graduated with degrees in many disciplines participated in the Hilton-sponsored HESA (Higher Education for Sisters of Africa) program.

During her address Sister Mary took the opportunity to congratulate Kenyan countryman Eliud Kipchoge, who earlier in October was the first person to run a marathon in under two hours. She used his own words, found on his twitter feed, to underscore her message. His tweet reads: “I don’t know where the limits are but I would like to go there.” Coupled with the theme of the graduation, Bringing the Africa We Want, Sister Mary noted the speed with which Kenya has advanced in business, industry, agriculture, and the global economy in recent years. Having “leapfrogged” from non-existent capacity for technology to the very newest digital products, Kenya is the world leader in providing geothermal power, has out-distanced many developed countries in entrepreneurial endeavors, and is poised with the rest of Africa to have the highest GDP (gross domestic product) in the world by the year 2050.

Sister Mary cautioned the graduates that their education and the principles of Catholic social thought, learned at the university, can lead them to successful and happy lives only if they do not abandon the rich culture of family, respect, music, art, and love of creation which is their birthright. As a country, Kenya is poised to become a leader of nations in this century. As individuals, the graduates have within them all the pieces to the puzzle that will help them go to unknown limits in bringing the Africa they want.

While Sister Mary was in Kenya, she visited several sites, particularly the Tumaini Center, where through ASEC’s sponsorship, cohorts of African sisters learn skills in computers, finance, business, and leadership.

Upcoming Weekend Presentation November 16–17

Called to be a Community of Disciples: Our Ever-Evolving Understanding of IHM Charism, Communion and Communal Life

What does it mean for us in these times to be a community of disciples? How is our understanding of our IHM charism evolving? How do we live in communion among ourselves and with our larger world community? What is our present day understanding of our communal life?

These questions will be the focus of the presentation by Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM. The weekend will begin on Saturday, November 16 with a light breakfast in the Theresa Maxis Conference Center at 9:00 a.m. The presentation will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. On Sunday, November 17, the day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:00 noon.

Those planning to attend are asked to register by November 8 at communications@sistersofihm.org or call the Communications Office at 570-346-5404.
Groundbreaking Held for Mother Mary Lange Catholic School

Archbishop William E. Lori joined the Oblate Sisters of Providence and civic and community leaders in breaking ground on the Mother Mary Lange Catholic School in Baltimore on October 23. Continuing a long legacy of equipping young people with a solid academic and spiritual foundation, the new school is the first new Catholic elementary school to be built in Baltimore City in six decades. It will provide state-of-the-art facilities and a nurturing, Christ-centered environment for learning.

Named in honor of the founder of the first women's religious community for women of African-American descent, Mother Mary Lange Catholic School will be the new home for current students of Holy Angels Catholic School and Ss. James and John Catholic School.

Opening in September 2021, the school is expected to enroll 400 in its inaugural year, drawing students living in 40 zip codes to one 21st-century facility. There will be room to grow to a capacity of 520.

Nearly fifty university, corporate, philanthropic and nonprofit partners are committed to ensuring that students receive a superior education and supportive services.

With the help of numerous supporters, more than $19.5 million has already been raised toward the $23.9 million project. To learn more about Mother Mary Lange Catholic School visit www.mmlcs.org

From Friends of the Poor

The busiest season for Friends of the Poor is upon us. Our inaugural Community Fall Fest, with the Community Intervention Center, was a success, as was our involvement with Boscov’s Friend’s Helping Friends fundraiser. We thank you for your support of both events.

Our sights now turn to our 43rd Annual Thanksgiving Community Program. The three-part program begins Friday, November 22nd. On this date, Temple Hesed will host a potluck dinner will to be served at 6:00 p.m. It will be followed by an Interfaith Prayer Service, sponsored by the Scranton Area Ministerium.

Our annual Thanksgiving Celebration dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 26 at the Scranton Cultural Center at 6 p.m. Doug Smith and the Ferdie Bistocchi Memorial Orchestra will provide the music for this festive evening of community and thanksgiving. We invite you to share in the fellowship this evening.

The 33rd Annual Family to Family Food Basket Program opens early on Wednesday, November 27, also at the Scranton Cultural Center. Linda Robeson, her son, Ryan, daughter-in-law, Mary Christine and granddaughter, Lucia are the hosts for this event.
An arduous journey from NY to MI to PA in mid-19th century

Who is this woman, one of the earliest members of the Scranton IHM branch, born in New York City in the 1800s, entered IHM in Monroe in 1857, journeyed to Reading in 1859, and died in Carbondale in 1877? This woman of courage may have been greatly influenced by Fr. Egidius Smulders, CSsR, the second director of the congregation (as of 1847) who served with the Redemptorists in New York. This woman was Eleanor Flannigan, who, prior to entrance into IHM, was a teacher and principal in New York, and was known in religion as Sister Egidius.

After just two years in Monroe, she “journeyed” to Pennsylvania, where she ministered for 18 years. She is best remembered in Pittston, where she reached out to the young and old in the city. She was instrumental in founding the Pittston marching corps and in designing their uniforms. The parishioners remembered her death anniversary with a mass for more than thirty-five years. (Gillespie, Sr. Immaculata, IHM, The Sisters of the IHM, NY: Kennedy & Sons, 1921.) “Her influence was greatest and her memory has lived longest at St. John’s Pittston, the center of the mining district where she devoted her life to the welfare of the boys who worked in the mines. She was largely responsible for the temperance society that flourished among them for the wholesome activities that made their leisure hours safe.” (Kelly, Rosalita, IHM, No Greater Service, Detroit, MI, 1848, p. 152.)

Sister Egidius devoted her life to a spirit of peace and unity not only in her ministry activities. She was also greatly concerned about the separation of the three branches of IHM and strove to keep the sisters in the west in touch with the sisters in the east. It is well documented that she wrote to Mother Mary Joseph in Monroe, begging her to intercede with Bishop Lefevre to allow Mother Mary Joseph to write once a year, “even if it were only a few lines.” The original full newspaper obituary can be found in the IHM Archives holdings.

Obituary excerpted from the Pittston newspaper, March 7, 1877: Died at St. Rose’s Convent, Carbondale, March 6th, 1877, Sister Mary Egidius, formerly Miss Eleanor Flannigan, of New York. Sister Egidius made her novitiate at St. Mary’s Academy, Monroe, Michigan. The remainder of her life she spent in Pennsylvania; the last six years in the diocese of Scranton. During the four years which she passed at St. John’s Academy, Pittston, she became well known in our community, and deeply loved by many who were not of her own church communion. She was possessed of unusual strength and loveliness of character; of ripened judgment; of broad Christian sympathies which went out to all, of whatever profession, who knew and loved her Master. And her deep pity and charity for such as had gone astray from the paths of religion and virtue; the unresting earnestness and devotion with which she sought to win them have proved how profoundly she had learned the lessons in the school of Christ.

In the academy she was an indefatigable and successful teacher. There are few Catholic families in this town which do not number among her sincerest mourners. From her position, her influence was most widely exercised over the youth of her own sex. But at least four young men who are doing earnest work in the Order of Christian Brothers trace their conversion from worldliness to her as the instrument. And others, not a few, in active business life testify to the aid which her counsels, and the high standard of Christian character which she held before them, has been to them.

The memory of the just is blessed and when one, who is of such an unobtrusive manner has wrought such a good work is called from us, let us at least pause a moment to reverently thank God for the work and the memory.

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Notice Regarding Lake Houses

- Sisters, many sets of sheets and sets of towels are missing from the lake houses.
- Please, if sisters have taken sheets, towels, washcloths home, return them to the IHM Center so they can be put back in place so other sisters can use them.
2019-2020 Silver Circle Drawings Begin

Pictured are IHM sisters Mary Martha Gardiner, Daniel Mary Heisey, and M. de Montfort Babb at the first 2019-2020 Silver Circle drawing held this past month in the dining room at the IHM Center. A HUGE thank you goes out to all of our Silver Circle sellers, volunteers, and participants. View October winners online at www.sistersofihm.org/silvercircle. Although we are thrilled to be at 92% of our annual goal, we are still working towards the goal of increasing our IHM Silver Circle sellers to expand our base of donors. Please consider your own participation as a seller. PLEASE!

Not sure what to give that special someone for Christmas? Silver Circle memberships make great gifts. Please call the development office at 570 346-5431 for more information. The next drawing is on November 20, 2019, when we will have details about our top sellers.

A Successful Fall Appeal

Shortly before she unexpectedly passed away, Sister Gloria Frank, IHM was featured in the fall direct mail appeal that was sent to IHM family and friends. Thanks to the generous donation of $10,000 from a special friend, so far the 2019 fall direct mail appeal has raised more than $31,000 for the IHM Congregation.

Construction of Mother Seton Academy Gym Nearing Completion  
by Sister Denise Lyon

Daily, the students, faculty and staff look excitedly out the 2nd floor school windows to catch a glimpse of the new MSA gymnasium which is quickly nearing completion. Although the interior cannot be seen, the walls, ceiling, scoreboard, and basketball backboards are in place! The anticipated completion is Thanksgiving with move-in to begin the first week of December. What a Christmas gift for the school community! The new building is scheduled to be blessed and dedicated on Sunday, December 15.

Sister Peggy Juskelis, SSND, president of Mother Seton Academy, stands outside the construction site of the new building.

View video of construction site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpH6J03KAFO&feature=youtu.be
IHM Forward Weekend Review, October 4-6 by Mindy Welding, IHM

“All Christians are called to be hospitable, but it is more than serving a meal or filling a bed, opening our door – it is to open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others. Hospitality is not just shelter, but the quality of welcome behind it.” - Dorothy Day

IHM Forward, (sisters aged 68 and under), gathered the weekend of October 6 to reflect upon the vow of celibate chastity and what it means for us at this time. We began the weekend with the relationship of Mary and Elizabeth at the Visitation, each woman bringing the gifts of God’s presence and their total gift to each other in a vulnerable relationship. The deep sharing was an outpouring of the immense love of God within each woman – one to the other – an Incarnation of generous, overwhelming love.

This gift of relationship, vulnerability, deep sharing and walking with is what the vow of celibate chastity is in lived reality. It reassures us to know that we are enough as the Beloved of God and it begs us to nurture the gifts given for our call. We are chosen by God for this life at this time. Celibate chastity calls us to “right relationship” with our sisters and in our world. It invites me to bring some of the best of me home at the end of the day.

In accord with the theme of the Visitation and sharing in relationship with one another, we gathered with the sisters living at the IHM Center on Friday evening for prayer entitled “The Magnificat of Friendship,” and chose among nine spiritual encounters of the Visitation written on pieces of paper and selected randomly. We followed prayer with an ice cream social where we enjoyed one another's company as we told stories, shared hopes for the weekend and laughed a lot! The next day, Saturday, we signed up two by two to visit the sisters at Our Lady of Peace Residence during their supper. Ice cream was once again shared among us in the sisters’ community rooms – sharing the weekend story, asking the sisters how they were doing, praying with them, singing or just being present. It was a continuation of the Visitation, bringing life to all who joined in the encounter! Truly, this was a celebration of our vow of celibate chastity and the special relationship to which the vow calls us.

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Our Lady of Mercy Church in Forest Hills Celebrates 90th

On Sunday, October 6, 2019, Our Lady of Mercy Church in Forest Hills, Queens, NY celebrated its 90th Anniversary. The main celebrant and homilist was Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, the Bishop of Brooklyn. There were other concelebrants from the parish and others who had served there through the years.

Following the liturgy, there was a Gala dinner dance at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, New York. Sisters Ann Barbara DeSiano, Marylin Grosselfinger, and Francis Rose Lapitino were able to attend and friendships were renewed. Our Lady of Mercy Convent has become the North American Provincial headquarters of the Marist Brothers who were also in attendance.

EarthCARE Update

We recently named the environment as one of our IHM Critical Issues. As we continue to explore ways to deepen and grow our relationship with all of creation, our EarthCARE committee has been engaging in fresh thinking to re-imagine our communion with the land and all the creatures who inhabit it. We’ve already seen how the planting of flowers, shrubs, and greenery native to our region has resulted in the welcoming of birds, frogs, and other species that are making a home on our IHM Center land. We now hope to move this invitation a step further by welcoming our native plant and flowering neighbors to come inside our home, when possible.

At a recent EarthCARE meeting, a member shared research on native species of plants and flowers that might be cultivated on our land and then cut for floral arrangements to beautify Our Lady of Lourdes chapel for special occasions, liturgies, and ceremonies. Some native plants might also be purchased for this purpose and later transplanted outdoors as part of our IHM Land Restoration. We are at work creating a binder to be used as a reference for those who wish to engage in this practice. The binder will illustrate some of the native plants and flowers available and provide ideas for arrangements using this greenery. An example, (see photo) shows the use of the familiar Queen Anne’s Lace in an arrangement which includes this lovely wildflower and other flowers native to our area.

May we continue to prayerfully re-imagine our partnership with our land in ways that bring about God’s dream of abundant life for all people and for our Common Home.

Dana McAnn, right, serves as principal at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy
Novices Explore the Significance of Mary in the Lives of IHMs Today

“We embrace Mary, the first disciple, as our model of a life rooted in God.” (IHM Charism Statement)

Mary plays an important role in Alphonsian spirituality and is a prominent figure within our IHM heritage. As IHMs, how has our relationship with and understanding of Mary as a model for our lives evolved over time? What significance does Mary have for us today?

IHM novices, Giovanna Fuentes Bendivez and Elizabeth McGill, along with Sisters Rachel Terry and Mary Elaine Anderson are exploring these questions in “Marian Themes,” a weekly dialogue facilitated by Sister Cathy Luxner. When asked about her experience of teaching “Marian Themes” to the women in initial formation, Cathy responded: “I look forward to each class and being with these women! It’s renewing and refreshing for me to ponder Mary’s place in our charism and spirituality...and more importantly in our future.”

We are grateful to Cathy for providing a space where we are able to reflect on our personal relationship with Mary, dialogue with one another about content which intrigues us, and expand our understanding of Mary’s significance for IHMs in the 21st century.

IHM Presents to International Communicators, Congregation Leaders and Formators

by Sister Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM

The UISG (International Union of Superiors General) and MMI (Multi-Media International) invited Sister Annmarie Sanders to participate in an interview with Phillip Pulella from Reuters News Agency. The topic: how media covers women religious in the news. The interview took place in Rome, Italy, on October 17 and was streameded to religious all over the world. It was followed by a two-day workshop titled “On Fire for Communications: Communication for Religious Life;” which Annmarie presented to communicators, congregation leaders and formators. Participants from international congregations attended, and Annmarie’s presentation was translated from English into Italian, French and Spanish.

During the workshop, Annmarie focused on the importance of communicating to the public not only the dedicated works that religious do but also the “core” or the deeper aspects of their lives. She reminded the participants that people all over the world deal with the same “big” questions and are often drawn to religious because they do not shy away from their yearnings and from the challenging questions.

Annmarie created space for personal reflection on and dialogue about the necessary skills to both listen and communicate on a profound level. She urged participants to:
Cultivate curiosity and adopt a judgment-free stance in their encounters
Walk with beauty and let themselves be surprised and their thinking be stretched
Live with a sense of awe and mystery and see beyond the tangible

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Profile of Sister Claire Kulp, IHM by Sister Patt Walsh

“Remember Me As Funny”

Sister Claire Marie Kulp, IHM was known as the “Princess” in her family. Born in Philadelphia, the Kulp children read the “Landmarks” books and spent hours touring those locations.

When an opportunity came along for college students to teach in diocesan schools while they pursued their degrees, Claire reached out to second grade students in an elementary school run by the Philadelphia IHMs. There she met Sister Margaret Benfield, IHM and the two women travelled together while completing their degrees. Thus began a lifelong friendship. Claire entered the Philadelphia IHMs when she was 26.

Claire was called to religious life but was not destined to be a Philadelphia IHM. Margaret mentioned there were two other IHM Congregations – Monroe and Scranton. Claire was still called to IHM. She just needed a turnpike drive to get to the right Motherhouse! But, those early months can build powerful relationships. Several Philadelphia IHMs from her original band recently visited to celebrate their 40th Jubilee!

Claire met with the Scranton IHM Vocation Director and began her Affiliate Year - living at home and quarterly attending weekends with other Affiliates. Before Claire entered, her friend, Margaret, had already transferred and was completing the process of incorporation.

Sister Johanne Barry IHM impacted Claire’s ministry choices—convincing her to pursue a degree in Secondary Education/History. Johanne believed high schools were the source of our vocations! Later, she convinced Claire to pursue a degree in social studies. Finally, Johanne became Principal at Seton Catholic High School.

After first profession, Claire went to St. Dominic’s High School in Oyster Bay. There Sister Mary Ann Cody helped Claire continue her journey. As the local community’s coordinator, Mary Ann was responsible for mentoring Claire through to her final vows. Later, Claire came to Seton Catholic and they either lived near each other or together in the rectory of the parish in which Mary Ann now serves.

Claire’s favorite mission—where she served for more than 20 years—was Seton Catholic High School in Pittston. To help seniors be better prepared for college writing assignments, she brought them to the IHM monthly prayer services! She recalled boys from the baseball team coming in uniform, covered in grime! She also took them on service trips with Sister Ancilla and to the IHM Summer Splash program. Claire’s classroom was filled with IHM posters—the Charism, the Mission Statement, the Core Values and the Direction Statement. Students were tested on them! Claire says “I discovered I’d fallen in love with Seton Catholic – the school, faculty, students and even the parents!”

In 2007, Seton Catholic and two other high schools
Our Widows’ Mite

You’re one of the fifty?  
We think that’s nifty!  
Nobody could’a believed  
Fifty gifts would be received.  
Some gave once and some gave twice.  
Big or small each gift is nice.  
Good Shepherd Sisters serve homeless poor.  
Children suffer most in time of war.  
Through Scranton-to-Syria we stand in prayer,  
And send donations to the sisters there.  
There’s still time to give  
So that others might live.

To date our donors have contributed $11,760. Thank you.

Send cash or make out a check to "Sisters of IHM" (with a notation on it indicating Sisters-to-Sisters) and send it to Sister Vincentia Dorsey, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509.

UISG continued from page 11

The workshop was both inspirational and practical. Communicators, congregation leaders and formators learned about the art of crafting powerful questions and the tools needed for communicating in times of crisis.

Annmarie’s presentation went far beyond the participants’ expectations. It nurtured their very souls and awakened them to their deeper mission of communicating their vocation, not just their works.

The interview about the media’s coverage of women religious is available on YouTube at:
Italian: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JMCI0Qnjs
English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dQXWnbxe_0
French: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEWE8tPcOAU
Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4T14PW32rk

One of the readings for preparation for the weekend was Chapter 8 of Religious Life in the 21st Century: The Prospect of Refounding, by Diarmuid O’Murchu (Orbis Books, NY, 2016) in which the author renames the vow of celibacy— the ‘vow for relatedness’ (p.146). He writes, “We are called to be an iconic emblem forever reminding our world that all of life is programmed for relationality, an evolutionary imperative initially born out of Holy Mystery itself” (p. 146). He continues, “In a world so fractured and wounded, it is difficult to persuade anybody that a more relational, cooperative, and collaborative existence is ever possible” (p. 147).

Isn’t this what God dreams for us? God’s dream is unity, to be in relationship with one another. The desire to be known—for others to know us as we are and for us to know others as they are—is a journey that we walk together with a commitment to personal work, to deeper relationships and a willingness to invite others into relationship. At the heart of God lies the creative, intimate, passionate desire to be incarnated in this broken, wounded, yet beautiful world. We share in this creativity and passion through our vow, co-creating with God, the dream of the kin-dom.

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Sunday to Sunday
Mondays until 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

The Silent Magic of Meditation
Wednesdays, until 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

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: November 25, December 23
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm (Donation $10)

IHM Sisters Remembered

IHM Sisters are remembered at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Bellefonte, PA, with the IHM logo on the wall outside each room in the school. Susan Pollick, financial administrator at the school noted that, "It is important to us to continue to honor the sisters that did so much for our school." IHM Sisters served at St. John the Evangelist Elementary School from 1903 to 1990.
IHM Newsletter - November 2019

St. Raymond's by Sister Ruthanne Gypalo

We recently received word from the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee that St. Raymond School won first place in their division "Elementary & Junior High School Ensemble Bands." Below is a photo of the members of last year's marching unit, The Golden Rays. Included with the children are Mr. Allan Fisher (left), the band director, myself, Sister Ruthanne Gypalo and Mr. Dan Sabatino, the marching director. We have received first and second places over the years, but are delighted to receive this honor once again. I believe that the school has marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade for more than 50 years. It's nice to see that it's still a tradition in East Rockaway.

IHM Sister Featured in Happenings Magazine

Sister Maryalice Jacquinot was featured in the October issue of Happenings Magazine. Read the complete article at: https://www.happeningsmagazinepa.com/2019/09/30/sister-maryalice-jacquinot-ihm/

God's covenant has been fulfilled

Sister, M. Francis Borgia O'Donnell, IHM November 4, 2019 in the 68th year of her religious profession

Sister Claire Kulp cont from page 10

merged into one school, Holy Redeemer in Wilkes Barre. Claire’s growing medical issues resulted in her retirement from teaching shortly thereafter.

Claire suffers from a number of medical challenges. She has rheumatoid arthritis; a heart condition and a pulmonary condition that requires her to be on oxygen. She’s had knee replacements and a foot condition that requires her to use a walker. Despite that, for four years, Claire volunteered as a receptionist at the McAuley Center, a ministry which serves homeless women and children At OLP, through her prayer ministry, Claire is able to pray for those she used to serve actively.

Despite these struggles, Claire enthusiastically shared that the Magnificat was her favorite Gospel—especially the phrase...”and God has done great things for me...” Why such gratitude? Claire replied, it’s because the Scranton IHMs made a home for her. They care for her—despite the costs of her medical needs. She knows she’s called to the IHM charism of joyful, loving service.

As I left her room, she said “I hope they remember me as funny!”
IHM Directory Update
The online directory at www.sistersofihm.org

Eileen Mary Coleman, IHM
Rm #303
Holy Family Residence
2500 Adams Ave.
Scranton, PA 18509
(during recuperation)

Sister Mary Rita Smith
Sisters of IHM
1440 Penn Avenue
Scranton, PA 18509-2370
570-963-8598
cell phone: 570-660-3453

Notes of Gratitude

Please accept my gratitude for the many cards of sympathy, offering Masses and prayers for my sister Gloria and our family. The IHM Community was both loving and supportive of Gloria during her many years in ministry, which gave her rich personal happiness and a blessed spiritual life in a true sense of family. We will all miss her presence, but know her spirit is now in the greater family of the Communion of Saints. “May the circle be unbroken.” - Robert Frank

Dear Sisters,

Deep thanks to all who sent cards, prayers, kind wishes and comfort on the death of my cousin, Angel Cafiero, an Immaculata graduate, following a long illness with COPD. She was a hospice nurse working every day to give care and support and comfort to those in her care journeying the last days of their lives. So many more people than her family and friends are missing her and are grateful they knew her. She was a terrific role model!

Gratefully, Sister Sandy McMahon

Thank you so much for your prayers, Masses, cards, and messages of sympathy on the recent death of my nephew, CJ Uram. Our family is deeply grateful for your prayerful support at a very difficult time.

Sincerely, Sister Constance (Connie) Wilt

The family of Catherine McDonough is grateful for your masses and prayers. We are also thankful for the loving care that Sister Francis Xavier Grieb is receiving from the community and her caregivers.

The Hemmer Family want to thank everyone for the prayers, love and concern shown to us at the time of Sister Helen’s death.

Gratefully, Sister Rosarii Hemmer

2020 Jubilarian Celebration

Sunday, July 26, 2020 will be the Jubilee celebration at the IHM Center for our jubilarians this summer. As you all know, we are not having our IHM assembly in 2020 due to the 175th anniversary celebration in Monroe this coming July. We hope that many sisters will be in Scranton for Saint Joe’s Festival the weekend of July 24-26 and then also be on hand to help celebrate our Jubilarians on Sunday, July 26.

No IHM Assembly Planned for 2020

In light of the fact that the 175th Anniversary Celebration of our congregation will be in Monroe from July 17-20, 2020, the leadership team and the advisory board discussed the timing of our Assembly and agreed that Assembly 2020 will not be held next summer.

Presentations by task forces one and three on the revisions of the IHM Constitution and Supplement, originally planned for presentation at Assembly 2020, will be rescheduled to a date to be determined.
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

June 20, 2020 Advisory Board Meeting

175th Anniversary of the Sisters of IHM
Friday, July 17 to Monday, July 20, 2020 Monroe, MI

Sunday, July 26, 2020 IHM Jubilee

IHM Congregation Vitae
as of November 6, 2019
Final Profession - 308
Temp. Professed - 1
Novices - 2
Candidate - 0
Associates - 168

Sisters of St. Casimir Congregation Vitae
Final Profession - 43

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

IHM Forward continued from page 11

Our IHM Direction statement challenges us to live out the commitment to embody unconditional love for the world, to be the presence of love for one another and to assume responsibility for the present and the future life of the Congregation. This is living out our vow of consecrated celibacy, a vow for relatedness. Our Alphonsian spirituality deepens in us this sense of knowing God loves us intimately (I’m enough; you’re enough) which allows the creative flow of passion for others. It impels us for the mission, to be the presence of love in the world. What we vow to one another, we vow not for ourselves – it is the Incarnational act of the unconditional love of God, through Jesus, carried on in us.

In small and large group sharing, we claimed the responsibility to be vulnerable with others, to be truthful and honest together, trusting in the ability to build relationships among us through deep listening. We do this, together, for the sake of IHM, for mission; God is inviting us deeper into the heart so that we can be incarnational.

We are most grateful for your prayers and your support as we continue on this IHM Forward journey!

NEW on the IHM WEB

Wakes and Funerals for Deceased IHM Sisters: https://video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv
List of all deceased sisters by month and day: http://www.sistersofihm.org/who-we-are/ihm-member-directories/
Community History: http://www.ustream.tv/channel/ihm-tv
New Sisters of St. Casimir website: https://www.sistersofstcasimir.org/
IHM Vocation

Annunciation House at McCarty Hall invited members of the Marywood University women's initiative called, "Delight from the Scripture, Delight yourself in the Lord!" (Psalm 37), for pizza and prayer. "Delight" gathers on Sunday evenings after liturgy to share in community around topics of faith. "Delight" is a national organization whose mission is to invite college women into the Christ-centered community that fosters vulnerability and transforms stories. The website states that, "We are a community of women that grows together, serves together, learns together and does life together while chasing the heart of God." One of the young women who founded the Chapter of Delight on Marywood's campus, Sarah, was happy to tell the story of their beginnings to the sisters gathered. They follow a theme for the year and a handbook created by the founders of the organization. (missing from photo is Sister Donna Korba)

The two-hour gathering seemed to pass by quickly as we shared stories of our vocation and missions, hearing about Delight, sharing a meal and prayer.

IHM Sisters interested in hosting Pizza and Prayer with your local community, please contact Sister Mindy at weldingm@sistersofihm.org

Vocation Office Schedule

- November 4 - 8 — National Religious Vocation Conference Board meetings, Chicago
- November 11 — combined high schools, Delaware, Women's Retreat with Sister Sandy Grieco, IHM
- November 13 — visiting Sister Elizabeth DeMerchant's classroom at All Saints Academy
- November 17 — XLT, St. Matthew's, East Stroudsburg
- November 22 — Pizza and Prayer, Annunciation Community at McCarty Hall
- November 26 — Holy Cross High School, Junior Retreat, IHM Center

#LeaveAMark19 Held November 3

Sisters were invited to join #LeaveAMark19 celebration for the Diocese of Scranton’s young adult church. XLT, Bold Choices Retreats, the Diocesan Day of Service and the special liturgy on November 3 are all a part of #LeaveAMark. Pictured about is the planning committee for these events.
The World That We Knew by Alice Hoffman
Reviewed by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

Alice Hoffman’s *The World That We Knew* is a Holocaust story. Ordinarily, these stories are so painful, I struggle to finish them. But, in our real world, the Kurdish people are being abandoned to their Syrian and Turkish enemies for what is predicted to be an “ethnic cleansing.” I realized I was facing an opportunity to endure the minor discomfort of reading a novel that makes very real the terror, pain and grief all people experience during these living nightmares. I was reading about the Jews in WWII but I was praying for the Kurds.

*The World We Knew* begins in Berlin in 1941 with Hanni Kohn, a Jewish woman with an ailing mother and a twelve-year-old daughter, Lea. Hanni decides she needs to save her daughter from the Nazis by sending her to Paris to live with relatives. However, Hanni cannot abandon her mother and Lea is too young to make such a dangerous journey alone. Hanni believes that her Rabbi can help. However, a woman going directly to her Rabbi just wasn’t done. So, she approaches the Rabbi’s wife. The wife tells her to go. But the Rabbi’s daughter, Ettie, has overheard Hanni’s request—just as she has often stood outside her father’s office and listened as he taught and prayed—and she thinks she can help Hanni. She believes she knows how to “create a Golem.”

A Golem is a “clay creature that has been magically brought to life.” Ettie brings to life a full grown, beautiful female that they call Ava (Hebrew for “Life”). She is given the sole mission of keeping Lea alive and getting her to safety. Ava is, indeed, magical. She can speak and dance with the birds—especially a Blue Heron—and she reads minds. Golems do not have souls and should be terminated before they become too powerful. A central question in the story is whether Lea will be able to kill Ava once she has completed her mission.

Lea and Ava get fake papers and set off on a train for Paris. At the same time, Ettie has left home with her sister, Marta, aboard the same train. While Ava gets Lea safely to Paris, Ettie and Marta are identified as Jews, abandon the train and, in their escape, Marta is killed. Thus, Ettie, distraught, seeks revenge and eventually joins the French Resistance. Meanwhile, Lea and Ava have arrived at Lea’s cousins’ home and have met their two sons, Victor and Julien. As their maid/cook, Marianne, has recently left them to join the Resistance, Ava takes over as the family’s cook. From there Julien falls in love with Lea, Victor leaves to join Ettie and Marianne in the Resistance and Ava decides that, to keep Lea safe, they need to flee Paris.

Thus, the main plotlines are in place and the story becomes a tapestry weaving together their journeys; their reunions and separations and their destinies. It tells the story of what it means “to resist”—the courage you need and the price you are willing to pay—to deny your enemy its victory.

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The IHM Directory Information

Sisters, kindly check your residence and ministry information in our online directory. Go to www.sistersofihm.org and to the Sisters Login. Unable to login? Write to: IT@sistersofihm.org
Submit directory changes to communications@sistersofihm.org
Local Community Fidelity Checking Accounts Sweep

As a reminder, local community Fidelity checking accounts will be reduced to 2 times the monthly allotment on December 31, 2019. The reduction will be reflected on the December bank statement. The Business Office will notify each community of the amount that was swept from your account. Be sure to note the deduction in your check register. If you have been saving for jubilees or other expenses, please contact Sister Terri Jordan at jordant@sistersofihm.org or 570-346-5405 with the amount by December 6, 2019. This amount will be retained in your account. The January monthly allotment will be deposited into the local community checking accounts on January 2, 2020.

Auto Records

Sisters are reminded to complete the quarterly Auto Record form for September 2019 and return it to the Business Office. Utilizing the Auto Record form will assist in the tracking of regular maintenance and repairs of all congregational vehicles. Forms are available in the Business Office or on the Congregation’s website- www.sistersofihm.org, click on Sisters Login, Business Matters, Vehicles, Auto Record. Forms should be sent via mail to the IHM Center Business Office or via email to IHMfinance@sistersofihm.org

Heartworks Gift Shop

Heartworks Gift Shop is getting ready for the holiday season and the shelves are bursting with new merchandise. The sisters have been busy making beautiful afghans, baby sweater sets, needlepoint, watercolors, cards, candy, aprons, rosaries, painted stones, crocheted top kitchen towels and much more. Willow Tree angels are now in stock, and new scents of goat milk soap, room mists, lotions and lip balm have just arrived. Be sure to stop in the shop during the holiday season, we’d love to see you. To keep up with what’s new in Heartworks, check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/heartworksgiftshop

Mission Circle Celebrates Jubilarians

The members of the Our Lady of the Millennium Mission Circle honored Jubilarians (left) Ann Marie O’Brien, 70 years, and Carole Griffin, 60 years, at their meeting held recently in the Bistro at Our Lady of Peace Residence.

New Signage on Campus

New signage outside of the Liberal Arts Center on the campus of Marywood University designates the classroom and office space of the NativityMiguel School of Scranton.