Retreat April 3 - 5  
*An Irrepressible Urgency Toward Wholeness*

In the mid-nineties as an IHM Congregation, we chose wholeness as one of our five core values. This retreat, April 3-5, with Sister Liz Sweeney, SSJ, will offer an opportunity to explore together what wholeness might mean for us personally and communally now, in 2020, when we have an awakened consciousness of ourselves living in an evolving universe at a critical moment both for religious life and for our planet.

Today thinkers from the fields of neuro-science, psychology, integral philosophy, science, and theology are in conversation to discover ways to embody a new kind of wisdom grounded in the wholeness of the cosmos and rooted in a love that presses us to stretch beyond ourselves for the sake of the whole. From that vantage point, we will consider the dimensions of wholeness from an integral framework.

In addition, as Pat Murray, IBVM, suggested at the 2019 LCWR Assembly, “What we have to offer people today is above all our experience of vulnerability, fragility and weakness, and our profound belief that God’s grace seldom comes continued on page 2

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Centennials Meet at OLP to Discuss Advisory Board Meeting and Questions

On Saturday afternoon, January 18, the OLP group known as the Centennials met to discuss the paper published by the Advisory Board on December 14, 2019. Of the 39 members, 33 were present. In general they found the paper to be positive and hopeful in nature, although some of the discussion called for better communication with the congregation-at-large. The Centennials feel that they would like to know more about what the rest of the congregation is saying, but they realize that this was a function of Mission Board representatives in the previous governance model and that a replacement method of Mission Circle information exchange has yet to be devised.

One of the purposes of the Centennials is to respond to requests for feedback sent out by the Advisory Board. The group separated into the six table groups to take up the task of answering the seven questions posed by the Advisory Board. The focus of the seven questions was about our participation in the life of the congregation; we chose to do this as it relates to the new Advisory Board form of governance. Emerging from these discussions was the realization that patience is needed to let the Advisory Board grow into better serving the congregation in the area of communication. Another observation was that Centennial members had difficulty with the excessive verbiage of the paper which they felt led to too many generalizations and not enough specific content.

_Pictured L-R at the conclusion of the meeting are Sisters Jean Leonard, Joan Bastress and Daria McGinn_
Assembly 2020, Saturday, July 25

Dear Sisters,

As we take a second look at our need for Assembly 2020, there are some items we need to address in a timely manner. In preparing for Chapter 2022, we had originally scheduled the reports of Governance Task Forces 1 and 3 on updates to the Constitution and Supplement to be given at Assembly 2020. We would also normally expect to have some discussion around the Mid-Term Report presented by the leadership team at Assembly. Finally, we need to elect a “temporary” Chapter 2022 Planning Committee to begin planning for that event.

Since the travel and celebration of our 175th anniversary in Monroe has now been limited to a small number from each congregation, we would like to schedule a one-day Assembly on Saturday, July 25 to address the above issues. The following day, Sunday, July 26 is our congregation jubilee celebration. Hopefully, many sisters are already planning to be in Scranton for the jubilee celebration. It is also the weekend of the St. Joseph’s Festival, as usual.

We ask that you reserve Saturday, July 25 for Assembly 2020.

More information will follow on the agenda and the process for registration.

Sincerely,
Ellen, Mary Ellen, Mary, Terri, and Nancy

Retreat April 3-5 continued from page 1

in the way we might expect. It often demands the abandonment of every security and it is only in accepting the vulnerability that grace demands that we find ourselves invited to wholeness.”

Our wholeness, personally and communally, depends on embracing and integrating all of our experiences—our gifts and our vulnerabilities.

We steep ourselves in prayer and contemplation, delve deeply into our brokenness and shadow, and embrace our giftedness and vulnerability, as we share in a life of radical interdependence. On fire with the passion to love unconditionally, we desire to be in the midst of the pain of our world and join with others in seeing and being the light that shines through the cracks of broken hearts.

- IHM 2018 Mission Statement

The retreat will be held in the Theresa Maxis Conference Center and will begin Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. Saturday's gathering will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Sunday's retreat will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with lunch.

Those wishing to attend this retreat are asked to register by Friday, March 20 at communications@sistersofihm.org

Newton Lake House

Our Newton Lake House is scheduled for renovations during the month of April. No reservations will be accepted for Newton Lake during the month of April 2020.

The IHM sisters in MD gathered at Our Lady of Flower Convent in Bethesda, MD to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The afternoon began with a prayerful reflection with Theresa Maxis. Sisters reflected on the Seasons of Her Life and the Seasons of Our Life as IHM sisters through ritual and faith sharing. We also enjoyed a simple meal and dessert as they shared stories and laughter.
The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict
Reviewed by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

The Only Woman in the Room is classified as “historical fiction.” It is the story of the woman that many of us may know as the actress, Hedy Lamarr. Born in Austria in 1914, she was named Hedy Kiesler. Since Hedy is a real person who lived during a specific period of history, many of the facts of her life can be verified. However, the book’s author, Marie Benedict, never met her. Nonetheless, Benedict writes in the first person to bring the reader inside the mind and feelings of her central character, thus, the categorization of “fiction.”

The case can easily be made that Hedy survived many of the dangers of a life lived in pre-WWII Austria because of her acting skills and training. Her story, beginning on page 1, introduces her not only as an actress but as a woman who has the ability to immerse herself within a role in a way that her primary focus is on what her audience needs and expects from her. Somehow, she is always able to dig deep enough and give them what they want.

One night, a wealthy Austrian weapons manufacturer, Friedrich Mandl, was in the audience. He soon began to send a room full of roses nightly. Finally, Hedy told her parents about his interest and was surprised by their frightened reaction. Then they told her that Mr. Mandl was also known as “The Merchant of Death.” Though risky, her parents decided that a relationship with such a powerful man might keep them all safe, given the emerging stories of Hitler and the danger to the Jews.

The rest of the first part of the book is the story of the way Hedy navigates what becomes her first marriage. Her acting talents help her design her costumes and cleverly orchestrate her lines. Despite her fears and the danger of being with a man who could often be violent, she became the hostess to some of the most dangerous men in pre-war Austria. Most importantly, in her most significant role as “wife,” Hedy’s presence often went unnoticed as these men talked of weapons, enemies and plans.

During these days, Hedy often occupied herself in her husband’s library reading scientific literature and dabbling in becoming an inventor.

Finally, Hedy mobilized all of her acting skills to help her escape what she’d come to understand was Hitler’s approaching invasion of Austria. For years she felt guilty for not alerting others of the plans she’d learned about sitting at her dinner table.

Hedy’s escape took her to London where she met Louis B. Mayer who brought her to Hollywood. Her public life was typical of those who acted during the Golden Age of Hollywood and her private life was filled with the same tragic series of relationships common to many actresses.

Hedy continued to hope she could redeem herself by making some contribution to the war effort. In an incredible display of creativity, Hedy decides to target her efforts to the problem of submarine torpedoes whose signal could easily be jammed. Yes, Hedy! Yes, torpedoes!

What follows reminds us that it can be difficult to be “the only woman in the room.” This is one of those books that as you flip the page and you find it’s the end, you angrily say, “That’s it?” Not quite… keep reading. Discover that daily we each touch a bit of Hedy Lamarr, but, like many of the heroines Benedict explores; it seems that their very womanhood is the source of the injustice Benedict seeks to rectify.

(Note: Book Club questions are included with this text)
Cyril and Methodius

Cyril and Methodius were brothers born in Thessalonica in the early ninth century. For their work of evangelizing the Slavs, they are known as the “Apostles of the Slavs.” Cyril’s name was Constantine but he was given the name Cyril upon becoming a monk in Rome. Methodius was born Michael but was given the name Methodius upon becoming a monk in Mysian. Cyril studied philosophy and was a scholar. In 862 Prince Rastislav of Great Moravia requested missionaries to evangelize his Slavic subjects. Cyril and Methodius were sent to be missionaries to the Slavs. Near death, Cyril, frail and weakened by his many duties, begged Methodius to continue their mission. Methodius returned to Great Moravia and became Archbishop and continued their mission as promised. Cyril died February 14, 869; sixteen years later Methodius died on April 6, 885. Cyril and Methodius brought Christianity to the Slovaks, Moravians, Czechs, Russians, Poles and Bulgarians; they were true evangelizers.

As we begin this year of our IHM 175th anniversary, events are being planned throughout this year and into next year to celebrate 175 years of IHM joyful, loving, service to the people of God. Please mark your calendars with these two dates:

• On Saturday, September 12 at the Theresa Maxis Conference Center speaker and presenter Sharon Durham, will address the issue of white privilege.

• On Sunday, November 8 in the Performing Arts Center at Marywood University, sisters, associates, family, benefactors, neighbors and friends will gather for a celebratory Mass. Bishop Bambera will preside. A festive reception will follow Mass.

Other events are being planned including a day of service, open house at the IHM Center, tree planting, off broadway show, and family picnic. The dates and details of these will be forthcoming.
We’ve reached our Silver Circle goal!
Thank you to all our Silver Circle sellers and members who have helped us surpass our 2019-2020 goal of 7,022 memberships! We are still looking to expand our reach through new sellers. Please invite your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to become Silver Circle members or sellers today! With five more drawings remaining, there are still plenty of chances to win prizes ranging from $50 to $1,000. Come out and support the Development Office at the next Silver Circle drawing as we raise funds for the IHM Retirement Fund. Drawings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 8:45 a.m. in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Conference Room. Coffee and doughnuts are served. For more information, contact Sister Ann Monica at 570 346-5431 or bubsera@sistersofihm.org or stop by the Development Office for more tickets.

Remain in Our Love
The Development Office is offering special liturgies for parishes, schools, and organizations where IHM Sisters have ministered but are no longer present. The next mass will take place at the IHM Center chapel at 8 a.m. on February 26 for ministries in the Diocese of Albany and Syracuse.

IHM Sisters Presented Legacy Award
The IHM Sisters were unanimously selected by the Sacred Heart School, Mount Holly, NJ, to receive the Legacy Award at the school’s annual Diamond Gala. “As we celebrate our 75th year at Sacred Heart, we are keenly aware of and eternally grateful for the strong foundation given to us by the IHM sisters. Under the direction of the Sisters of IHM, our school not only opened, but continued to grow and flourish,” said Kathryn M. Besheer, principal of Sacred Heart School. Each year the Legacy Award is given to a person or organization that has made a lasting impact on the school.

IHM Center Retreat
June 7 to June 12
This year our IHM Center retreat will begin on Sunday, June 7, 2020. Retreat begins at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and concludes following lunch on Friday, June 12. Jan Novotka will lead the retreat. She has prepared this retreat description as an invitation for our sisters and associates to consider taking some time apart.

Embracing the Mystery of God
Sinking into God’s Still Silent Presence opens us to know God, our True Self, and the whole of Reality in a new way. As we journey together into the Mystery of God, we will experience simple techniques to quiet the mind and open the heart. Each day we will be invited to become aware of subtle inner movements, engage with emerging questions and challenges, and give ourselves to seeing with “the Eyes of the Holy.”

How Can I Keep from Singing?
Guided Retreat, June 20 – June 26
Presenter: Sister Melannie Svoboda, SND
Saints Cyril and Methodius
Danville, PA

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”
If we are in touch with God’s great love for us, our hearts will be filled with song. This retreat will focus on ways we can nourish our song or our Christian discipleship: through the wonders of creation, prayer, compassion, service, playfulness, letting go, laughter, beauty, hope, and courage during times of pain and sorrow. Using scripture, music, stories, poetry, and short videos, we will be invited to deepen our relationship with a God who loves us more than we can imagine.

Special Price $375.00 per IHM Sister due by deadline of March 20, 2020.

Contact Sister Mary Ellen Higgins to register: higginssm@sistersofihm.org
570-346-5402

L-R Sister Ann Monica Bubser, Sister Jean Louise Bachetti, Kathryn M. Besheer, and Sister Daniel Mary Heisey
We Remember Ann T. Williams by Jane O’Neill

“Please accept my request to become an IHM Associate of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Next to my parents, I can state that the IHM sisters have had the most influence on my life. The education that I received from the IHMs was excellent and gave me the opportunity to have a fulfilling forty year career in the field of elementary education. The IHMs also gave me superior training in Catholicism showing me that what makes life worthwhile is loving God and trying to live His way. I believe that I am ready to become an IHM Associate and, through my work in my church and community, to keep the spirit of IHM alive.” At age 70 with these words in her letter of request to become an IHM Associate to Mary Persico, IHM, Ann Williams felt ready and answered the call to IHM Associate relationship. Ann always loved the IHM sisters and desired nothing more than being the IHM presence in Williamsport, especially in her parish, former Annunciation parish and now St. Joseph the Worker parish. Her Circle of Grace, facilitated by her dear friend, Rita Ann Naughton, IHM, included associates Jane Roche and Phyllis Zarzyczny.

Ann’s formal education by IHM sisters started in third grade at St. Joseph School in Williamsport, PA, and continued until her graduation from Marywood College in 1951. An educator for most of her adult life, Ann earned a Master’s degree in education from the Pennsylvania University and later a doctorate from Penn State University. While studying for her doctorate, Ann married her husband, Frank. They did not have children and over the years they traveled the world together. According to Ann, marrying Frank was the smartest choice she ever made. Ann considered her years with Frank as the best years of her life. Frank passed away in 2015.

As an IHM Associate, Ann wanted to help others believe what the IHM sisters taught her—that God desires a relationship with each individual and this relationship will bring love and meaning to one’s life. In retirement Ann lived her covenant with God through IHM Associate relationship by caring for others in her parish and the Williamsport area. She was a frequent visitor of the homebound and residents in nursing homes; provided transportation to people who could no longer drive; and always volunteered for parish and community projects. While working in these various ministries, Ann purposely made opportunities to demonstrate the need for God in the lives of those whom she served.

In recent years Ann’s health declined. Up until two years ago Ann, with the assistance of her aide, came to the IHM Center to celebrate special occasions. Her last visit with her beloved aide, Trish, was to Misericordia for a joint gathering of Mercy and IHM Associates in Dallas, PA. Ann died on January 21.

We celebrate Ann T. Williams and her beautiful life and spirit. May she rest in peace.

New Associate Advisory Committee by Jane O’Neill

A new Associate Advisory Committee will convene on March 4, 2020. The members of the committee include IHM Sisters Jean Louise Bachetti, Scranton, PA; Helene Cook, Baltimore, MD; Nancy Elder, Gainesville, FL; and Mary Ellen Higgins, Scranton, PA. IHM Associates who serve on the committee are Amy Kinnard, St. Petersburg, FL; Maureen McCarthy, North Beach, MD; Jane O’Neill, Scranton, PA; and Sheryl Lynn Sochoka, Scranton, PA. Representation from various geographic regions, professions, and length of time in associate relationship will bring fresh perspective, new ideas, and creative contributions as the congregation “lets others, including our IHM Associates, walk with us, use their voices to strengthen our IHM mission, and at times tend to our wounds.” (Chapter Reflection for July 9, 2018)

While we are well acquainted with the sisters and Jane O’Neill who will serve on this committee, some introductory information about the other three associates on this committee is helpful. Amy Kinnard was commissioned as an IHM Associate in October 2019. She first met the IHM Sisters as a freshman at Marywood University. A 2005 graduate of Marywood University, Amy served in the US Peace Corps in the South Pacific for two

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Friends of the Poor Update

Dear Sisters,

For most people, February 14 is the day to celebrate Valentine’s Day, but at Friends of the Poor we celebrate the birthday of our foundress, Sister M. Adrian Barrett, IHM.

The work we do, to accompany those living in poverty, is our daily recognition of the journey Sister Adrian began in 1986, more than 30 years ago. This year our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, will be held on Thursday, February 13, one day shy of what would have been Sister Adrian’s 91st birthday. The luncheon will honor the hundreds of volunteers, who put in thousands of hours each year through our pantries, Clothes Line for Men, Need-A-Ride program, holiday dinners and Family to Family food distributions.

Last month on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Friends of the Poor and students from the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, hosted a luncheon and educational program for children living in the housing developments in Scranton. More than 60 children participated in the event at Saint Mary’s Center. The medical students played educational games revolving around the history of the Civil Rights Movement in our country. The children also created a “I Have a Dream” mobile listing their dreams for themselves, their community and the world. Members of the Scranton Police Department were also on hand to share lunch with the children.

It is through your prayers and the strong foundation established by Sister Adrian Barrett that Friends of the Poor continues to flourish and meet the growing needs of our community.

Thank you.

Meghan Loftus, President/CEO of Friends of the Poor

Featured in U.S. Catholic

Lisa Perkowski was one of several young sisters featured in an article in U.S. Catholic by Jessica Mesman. Titled, “How young women religious are changing the church,” Sister Lisa was highlighted for her role in planning and participating in the 10th Giving Voice National Gathering at Fontbonne University in St. Louis this past June.

Read the entire article at: http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201912/young-women-religious-are-raising-their-voices-31926
Monthly Offerings

DeMello Spirituality Group
Pat Cuccia, IHM Associate
Mondays: February 24, March 30, April 27, June 22
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Donation - $10.00

Joan Chittister Study Group
Pat Cuccia, IHM Associate
Tuesdays: March 24, April 21, May 19, June 9 from 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm
Donation - $10.00

Divine Mercy Prayer and Healing Service
Br. Paul Miller, OFS
Wednesdays: February 12, March 11, April 15, May 13, June 10 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Free Will Donation

Spiritual Practices
Ann Barbara DeSiano, IHM
Thursdays: February 13, March 12, May 7, June 11 from 10:30 am - 12:00 noon
Free Will Donation

Come Study
A monthly spiritual practice based on the Beatitudes will lead to a vital and healthy spiritual life.

Spiritual Direction JoAnn Walsh, RSM. Please call the Center at 516-627-9255 for more information.

OLG Book Club
Wednesday mornings
February 12, 19, 26
10:00 - 11:30 am
We will be reading and discussing *Everything Belongs*
by Richard Rohr
Sheila Kutner
Free Will Donation

Sunday to Sunday: A Lenten Reflection Program
Thursdays, February 27 - April 2
7:30 - 9:00 pm
Join us for an historical, literal, and spiritual exploration of the upcoming Sunday readings.
Tony Marinelli
Free Will Donation

Lenten Women’s Retreat
The Women Jesus Loved
Friday, February 28, 7:00 pm - Saturday, February 29, 4:00 pm
Mass celebrated at 4:00 pm
Journey with the women of Lent to discover the fullness of the resurrection.
Sheila Kutner, Pat McDonough
Cost: $175, $125 Commuter

Lenten Readings and Reflections
Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays
March 2 - April 8 at noon
Triduum: Thurs - Sat, April 9 - 11 at 9:30 am
Prayer, discussion, reflection around the readings of the day.
Free Will Donation

Tender Gaze of Jesus
Saturday, March 21
9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Learn how to bring your brokenness to the tender gaze of Jesus.
Joan McGovern
Cost: $35 (includes lunch)

Self Esteem
Tuesday, March 24
9:30 am - noon
Learn to love yourself as God loves you.
Diane Rizzo
Cost: $25

Lenten Day of Prayer: Growing in Prayer
Wednesday, March 18
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Join us for an exploration of new pathways for a deeper, richer prayer life.
JoAnn Walsh, RSM
Cost: $50 (includes lunch)

Resurrection Moment/Movement
Saturday, April 25
9:30 am - 1:30 pm
How do we put into action the great love of God revealed in the resurrection?
Joan McGovern
Cost: $35 (includes lunch)

Nurturing Wholeness
Thursday, April 30
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
We will learn how to encourage growth in all of our important relationships.
JoAnn Walsh, RSM
Cost: $50 (includes lunch)

Practicing Presence
Saturday, May 2
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Let us learn together how to love the person right in front of us.
Chris Koellhoffer, IHM
Cost: $50 (includes lunch)
IHM Associate Commissioned
by Jane O'Neill

On Sunday, January 12 we celebrated the commissioning of three new IHM Associates, Lissette Ballesteros-Furstenau, Gladys Garber, and Robert Zito. The ceremony was held in the chapel of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco, PA, the site of the former retreat center administered and staffed by IHM Sisters from 1990 to 2013 and a sisters' residence for more than 50 years. It was a joyous occasion and a certain energy filled the chapel during the ceremony. Afterward, sisters, associates, families, and friends enjoyed a luncheon reception prepared by the associates. This commissioning ceremony marks the culmination of two years of preparation facilitated by IHM Associates Daniela Rivera, Beverly Hartje, Arlene Calemmo, and Marguerite Morrow. It is the first time in IHM history that a Circle of Grace was led by associates who embody the IHM presence where the sisters no longer serve. During her opening remarks, Ellen Maroney, IHM President, suggested that our founders, Theresa Maxis Duchemin and Louis Florent Gillet, would be very pleased to learn that IHM Associates are a strong, viable presence of IHM in our world today.
Initial Formation Update by Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM

The women in or involved with initial formation started off the year 2020 at a fast pace!

Sister Mary Elaine Anderson attended the fourth and final session of the ForMission Program from January 4-11. The two-year program is sponsored by the Religious Formation Conference for women and men religious who are currently accompanying new members in initial formation. During the week spent at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio, TX, the participants explored the topic, “Formation for Religious Life.” One of the most memorable presentations was titled “Formation in an Evolutionary Context.” The presenter, Linda Gibler, OP, drew from the cosmic story lessons for initial and lifelong formation. She invited the participants to reflect on the following:

- God creates out of chaos. (How are we learning to live with and be at home in chaos?)
- Change is the way of life. Not to adapt is to become extinct. (How are we being challenged to use imagination, fresh thinking and creativity to adapt to our world’s changing needs?)
- Open systems draw energy; closed systems collapse. (How is our understanding of community and the invitation to live radical interdependence evolving?)

Sister Mindy Welding organized a Marywood University service trip and invited Sister Giovana Fuentes Bendivez to participate in it as part of her novitiate experience of IHM mission. Giovana accompanied six students and Sister Mindy to Frenchville, PA. The Marywood delegation volunteered from January 6-11, 2020, at Young People Who Care (YPWC) Ministries, which is located in the Appalachian Mountains of central Pennsylvania. YPWC welcomes volunteers who desire to serve the poor, live in community and prayerfully reflect on their experiences.

After returning from the service trip, Giovana moved from Annunciation Community (formation house) to Cathedral Convent in downtown Scranton. As a second-year novice, Giovana continues to prepare for ministry and profession of vows. Her preparation includes having diverse communal and ministerial experiences. While she is living with the sisters at Cathedral Convent, Giovana will be serving at Friends of the Poor.

As a canonical novice, Sister Elizabeth “Liz” McGill is immersed in study, community life, and service in our IHM sponsored ministries and congregational activities. During the next few months, she will be commuting to Villa Maria House of Studies, Immaculata, PA one day a week to participate in the inter-novitiate course, “The Biblical, Historical and Spiritual Roots of Consecrated Life.” Liz also will be studying “Feminist Theology” with Sister Nancy Hawkins.

Special Note: In January, the IHM Congregation renewed its annual membership in the Religious Formation Conference (RFC). All IHM sisters are welcome to access the members only section of RFC (www.relforcon.org ) for recent articles, videos and webinars related to religious life and formation. User ID: ihmscranton Password: 12heartofmary34
Dear Sisters,

Since October the school couldn't open because the people are very angry about the government and the political situation. These politicians distribute guns to young men and teenagers. We can't go to some places in Haiti. In Martissant, a neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, there are gangs that give people trouble who visit there. Many times we take another way home through the woods because we can't go through Martissant. This situation makes me sick.

In January the school opened but we still have gangs and people are in a panic. On some of our missions the sisters can't buy food because people won't come to the city to sell their goods. Transportation is a big problem but it is easy to get into the city with an ambulance. We need an ambulance for the sisters. When we have a sister who is seriously sick, it is nearly impossible to get her to the hospital. We need funds for an ambulance.

We also need to continue to build our infirmary. We finished the building with eight bedrooms but this is not enough. The number of sick sisters is increasing.

By faith I know our situation will change. Thanks a lot for your prayers. We are grateful to you for your prayers, your solidarity, and your generosity.

Send donations marked "Haiti" to the IHM Development Office.

With gratitude and prayers,
Sister Denise Desil, psst
Sister Josephine Cioffi, IHM by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

“I always wanted to be with the children.”

John Cioffi arrived from Italy having had his immigration process accelerated because he’d fought on the American side during WWI. Later he returned home for his brother’s ordination. There he met Luisa (also) Cioffi. Luisa was a widow with one daughter—Jeanette. Their mothers were good friends and they decided that their children should marry! John returned to New York while Luisa needed permission from the dictator, Mussolini, to bring her daughter to America. Surprisingly, the Italian dictator did give his permission as he believed in the “integrity of the family.”

Thus, John and Luisa settled on East 118th Street in East Harlem. Josephine has another older sister—Frances. Josephine grew up in the primarily Italian section of East Harlem. A “first generation” American, when Josephine was only in fourth grade, she helped her mother prepare for her citizenship test.

Josephine travelled to 33rd Street to attend Immaculata High School where she first met the Scranton IHMs. Here she met Sister Herberta. Josephine recalls that Sister Herberta seemed to have an insight into potential vocations and took a particular interest in them.

Josephine arrived in Scranton in 1959. Her first question about the city: “Where’s the subway!?” Entering the IHMs in those pre-Vatican II years, Josephine had another problem—she couldn’t sing! But, ever the problem-solver, Josephine realized she just needed to find a skill she could do well. So, she learned to lector! Soon, many special celebrations found her at the lectern. Josephine took the name Lucia, the patroness of the blind, as Josephine suffered from vision loss which was later able to be corrected by cataract surgery.

Josephine spent ten years teaching in the elementary classroom. When she went to Nativity School in Scranton, she was assigned to teach Junior High Math. She discovered she loved it! Classroom management became easier because students had to really follow her as she taught them to solve problems. Thus, she enrolled in a Masters in Teaching Math degree at Catholic University. Soon, however, she was also being asked to assume the role of principal.

In 1984 Josephine moved to St. Ann’s in Eastern Harlem and stayed for thirty years! In many ways Josephine was home! While principal, she always continued to teach at least one class and knew all of the students by name. As a first generation American, Josephine had an affinity for students with special learning needs. Thus, St. Ann School became the first school in the diocese to have a program for special needs students. However, Josephine’s motivation for doing so was not so much for the special needs students, but rather for the “regular” students. She

continued on page 13
Sister Josephine continued from page 12

hoped to raise their level of empathy and acceptance of special needs students. She also met the needs of her faculty, providing them special support to teach in a way that met their needs.

Josephine’s leadership—in this area as well as in integrating technology, choral music and an aftercare program—brought her special recognition not only on a diocesan level but as an NCEA Distinguished Principal. She received, as well, the National U.S. Distinguished Principal Award.

Josephine retired after having been the founding principal of the NativityMiguel School in Scranton. She lives here at OLP, finding her way in this newest adventure of her life’s journey. She’s lectoring—a skill at which she knows she excels. It’s been my blessing, not just to hear her story but to also record it for posterity. May we never forget her dedication to the children and the remarkable things she is still accomplishing.

Sister Josephine in cooking class at the NativityMiguel School of Scranton where she served as its first principal from 2015-2017.

I want to thank you all for the kindness shown to my family and me during the wake and Mass for my sister, Jule, Sister St. Kenneth.

- Ken Polly

Notes of Gratitude

"Sometimes it helps a little to know that friends are there. Sometimes it helps a little to know how much they care. May your heart be comforted." These heartfelt messages are there for me and my family. I thank you for the numerous cards, phone calls, and emails. I appreciate all these acts of kindness, love, and friendship. I will always keep memories of my brother in my heart.

Love, Sister Cecilia Yeon Tji, IHM

Dear Sisters and Friends,

I wanted to thank the IHM sisters and our many friends for all the prayers, mass offerings and well wishes we received upon the loss of our dear mother, Monica Bubser. We truly appreciate and rely on your prayers. Thank you, also, to those who braved the weather to attend the wake and funeral services. The wonderful community support was so supportive, and our friends and family are still talking about the beautiful angelic voices of the IHM Choir singing the Salve Regina!

Thank you for your continued support.

- Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM and Family

IHM Named Full Professor

Sister Angela Kim was notified by Sister Mary Persico, the President of Marywood University, that she successfully met all the criteria required to earn promotion to full professor. Her rank of full professor will be effective, July 1, 2020.

Sister Angela also received a second Fulbright Specialist award to Poland from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Rzeszow University of Technology in Poland will be her host university. Sister Angela looks forward to collaborating on a project with faculty at this university in Poland in the summer of 2020.
IHM Calendar

Retreat Days
Liz Sweeney, SSJ
April 3-5

Advisory Board Meeting
Saturday, June 20

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

Assembly
Saturday, July 25

IHM Jubilee
Sunday, July 26

White Privilege
September 12
TMCC
Sharon Durham

175th Mass
November 8
PAC Marywood University

IHM Congregation Vitae

as of February 4, 2020

Final Profession - 303
Temp. Professed - 1
Novices - 2
Candidates - 0
Associates - 172

Sisters of St. Casimir Congregation Vitae

Final Profession - 43

Evening of Prayer, April 15

The date for the Evening of Prayer has been changed to Wednesday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the IHM Center. All are welcome!

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/
Advisory Board Documents: https://sw.sistersofihm.org/index.php/advisory-board/
New Sisters of St. Casimir website: https://www.sistersofstcasimir.org/
Remain in Our Love Masses: https://video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv

God’s covenant has been fulfilled

Sister M. St. Anthony Radzikowski, IHM
January 24, 2020
in the 75th year of her religious profession

Contemplative Prayer, February 15

A communal experience of contemplative prayer will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the IHM Center chapel on February 15.

All are invited to attend this time of centering prayer on Saturday, February 15.
Haiti Solidarity Network

In January, Chris Koellhoffer led a time of reflection and planning for the Board of Directors of the Haiti Solidarity Network of the Northeast (HSNNE), meeting at the Dominican motherhouse in Caldwell, NJ.

In 1993, Chris represented our Congregation on a human rights delegation to Haiti, where she met Father Jack Martin, a priest from the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ. Upon his return to the U.S., Jack (pictured 4th from left with the Board of Directors in photo) founded HSNNE, whose mission is to be in solidarity with the people of Haiti in their struggle against poverty and injustice and to work with them to achieve self-determination. Since its foundation in 1994, HSNNE has met monthly for prayer, reflection, and action, planned an annual fundraising event, partnered with the Coady Haiti Movement (named after founder of the movement, Reverend Moses Coady) to bring hope back to the people of Haiti, worked with Parish Twinning programs in both the U.S. and Haiti, and sponsored and led annual delegations to multiple regions of Haiti.

IHM Business Office

New Fleet Management Program

With the Fleet Management Program being in effect for two months, here are a few reminders.

1. Use a National Account Shop for all maintenance and repairs.
2. The list of National Account Shops by Zip Code is available in Business Office Online. From the IHM Website Sisters page, login to Business Office Online. Go to Business Matters/Vehicles/National Account Shops by Zip Code. Enter your zip code in the upper left hand corner. If there are no shops in the zip code area, select a zip code in a surrounding area.
3. Always present the driver kit to the shop when you arrive for service.
4. Use the WEX fleet card for gas purchases.
5. When in need of roadside assistance, contact NETWORK at 1-800-323-5916.
6. If you need assistance or have questions, contact NETWORK at 1-800-323-5916.

Social Security Notice “Your New Benefit Amount”

With the beginning of a new calendar year, The Social Security Administration has sent annual notices called “Your New Benefit Amount.” All Sisters collecting Social Security retirement benefits will receive this notice which details the expected monthly benefit for 2020. The Social Security Administration has mailed these forms directly to the address they have on file for each sister. Sisters are asked to send this notice to the IHM Center Business Office.

Income Tax Preparation

If the Business Office currently prepares your tax returns or you would like us to prepare them, please send all tax forms and documentation in one envelope to:

IHM Center Business Office
2300 Adams Ave
Scranton, PA 18509
Attn: Laura Bondy

Please send all tax forms even if a tax return is not required to be filed for you, as the IRS/Social Security requires such documentation to be retained in our files.

The tax deadline to file with the IRS is Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

Direct Deposit

Direct Deposit is a safe and timely method for your stipend/wages to be sent to the Congregation. The funds are electronically transmitted into the Congregation account on your regular pay date. A pay advice is then given to the sister advising her of the payment into the account. Please inquire at your place of ministry/employment for the availability of this feature.

Sisters who are currently enrolled in direct deposit are reminded to send their deposit advices upon receipt to the Business Office via mail or electronically to ihmfinance@sistersofihm.org