A religious vocation? Who, me?
By Candyce Rekart, IHM

… I was invited again to St. Mary Catholic Central High School to speak to all four classes of juniors. What an interesting time for me! I had them meet in small groups to answer the question, “What do you want to know about religious sisters, brothers and priests?” Typically, they asked about our daily routine and what we do for fun. Some asked about schooling and the process of becoming a religious.

This year I asked, “What do you think it takes to be a religious sister, brother or priest?” Fascinating! Most of the students indicated that it takes faith, belief in God, dedication, sacrifice and commitment. There were some very original expressions: “You have to have a great relationship with God;” “a passion for spreading the good news;” “a desire to make a change and help others” One that certainly brings a smile, “a Call from ‘the man’ himself.”

What does it take? According to these students, honesty, empathy, courage, morals, understanding, forgiveness, strength, bravery, leadership, determination, generosity, maturity, resilience, self-awareness, extreme respect and the ability to work with others.

As I reflected on what these young people said about what it takes to be a religious, I paused and asked myself, “Do I have what it takes to be a religious woman in today’s world? Do I have the qualities that those teens suggested we all have?”

Spirituality offering

On Saturday, March 28, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Mary Ellen Sheehan, IHM, STD, will present, “Mysticism and Celtic Spirituality: Encountering God in Culture, Word, and Nature.” Long ago, when the first preachers of the Jesus message arrived in Ireland, they found tribal people who were soul-sourced storytellers steeped in nature and lovers of communal sacred places. What happened to the Christian proclamation when it engaged this Celtic culture and what happened to Celtic narrative when it met the Christian story? This workshop will focus on visual nature imagery, poetry and community as a way into Celtic mystical awareness and commitment to care for the Earth community.

To register, contact Visitation at 734-433-0950 or visitationnorth@ihmsisters.org. The suggested offering is $25. Please note that Visitation is accessible only by stairs.
Then and Now

Sister Loretta Schroeder grew up on a farm in Michigan in a family of eight children, four boys and four girls, with wonderful faith-filled parents. Her early education included time in a one-room schoolhouse, public school in Hartland, attendance at the newly opened IHM St. John Grade School in Fenton and finally, St. Michael High School in Flint, another IHM school.

Sister Loretta’s family was related to Mother Teresa McGivney, the IHM General Superior, which may have set her on the course to becoming an IHM Sister. When she came to visit, she loved the beautiful blue habits. The sisters were nice and seemed happy.

“I guess I just kind of edged toward the place. It wasn’t like jumping right in,” she recalls. She never heard a booming voice directing her steps, but she felt she was going down the right path. Read more.

Reflection

Imagine the recovery of endangered species and ecosystem as a top priority on the world’s agenda. Imagine a commitment to the intellectual, artistic, ethical and spiritual potential of humanity as part of that agenda. Envision the United States fully invested in the common global good. Visualize governments, corporations and individuals who own, manage or use natural resources also committed to preventing environmental harm and to the rights of other humans. Consider the spread of democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful. Imagine the impact on the planet if everyone, including yourself, has a secure, meaningful, ecologically responsible livelihood. Imagine our generation exercising restraint to secure Earth’s bounty and beauty for future generations. Read more.

Book signing scheduled

On Sunday, March 8, following the 10 a.m. Mass in the Motherhouse Chapel, award-winning journalist and author Patricia Montemurri will be on-hand in the Gillet Board Room to autograph copies of Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of Michigan. The book highlights the history and accomplishments of the IHM Sisters since 1845 and is full of both archival and modern photos. It will be available for sale at the event ($19.50, tax included) and in the IHM Gift Shop after March 9. It will also be available online ($22.25, which includes tax and free shipping). Only books purchased through the IHM Sisters will benefit the congregation, so please share that information with friends and family.
**In the Gallery**

“Earth, Our Home” is the featured exhibit March 19 – May 3, with an opening reception on Thursday, March 19, from 6–7:30 p.m. Art students from Detroit Cristo Rey High School, Marian High School, Meadow Montessori, any of the Monroe County Public High Schools, Monroe Middle College and St. Mary Catholic Central High School were invited to participate in this juried exhibit.

Earth is our home. It’s the only one we’ve got. We depend on Earth and its ecological systems, rich diversity of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters and clean air to provide everything essential to life on the planet. We share responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life and future generations. This challenges us to examine our values and choose a better way. It calls us to action and fills us with hope for a just, sustainable and peaceful world.

Exhibits are free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.. For more information, contact Sharon Venier at 734-240-9754 or svenier@ihmsisters.org.

**Save the date**

The 25th annual Royal Blue Classic will be held on Monday, June 15 at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth, Mich. The event is open to women, men and mixed teams. Golfers of all skill levels can be comfortable in the scramble, best-ball format. Registration includes golf, continental breakfast, outdoor grilled lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, reception, dinner, raffles, great golfer gifts and skill holes, including a hole-in-one car. Bring a friend and receive a gift. Golfers have the option to play 18 or nine holes. Proceeds benefit the Ministry Fund and help the IHM Sisters continue to minister to those in the need. We hope to see you at this year’s 25th anniversary celebration! For more information, contact Marilyn Meadows at mmeadows@ihmsisters.org or 734-240-9863.

**Chapel Concert**

The first concert of 2020 takes place on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m., and features concert pianist Jim Hendricks. Hendricks has worked with such legends as Dave Brubeck (piano duets), Della Reese, Rita Moreno, Maynard Ferguson and many others. He has performed more than 1,400 Christian piano concerts in churches throughout the country, including several appearances at the former Crystal Cathedral. He has made 14 piano recordings, performed on ABC, CBS, TBN and PAX, wrote the book *Contemporary Arrangements for Today’s Church Pianist.* A free-will offering is requested.

**Remembering**

Ann Currier, IHM

May 16, 1928-Feb. 13, 2020
“Often it is better simply to slow down, to put aside our eagerness in order to see and listen to others.”

— Pope Francis

Raffle Update
Tickets for the 2019-2020 season are available for purchase from individual IHM Sisters and Associates or by contacting the Development Office at 734-240-9860. Tickets are $25 and cash prizes range from $50-$250. See who won in February.

2019-2020 Michigan State Raffle License No. C-28948

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Visit the IHM website to post information on an upcoming class reunion or to share a memory.

Submit prayer requests to the IHM Sisters.

Safe, secure online giving is available for your convenience.

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