Praying the Rosary for the World

IHM Sisters and friends gathered in the courtyards at Our Lady of Peace Residence on May 17 to pray the rosary for our world in this time of crisis and pandemic. Sister residents joined on their balconies and in their dining rooms to view those outside praying. The gathering was planned by Sister Susan Armbruster who created a gigantic rosary that lined the courtyard path. A sound system amplified the prayer for all to hear. The rosary recitation was livestreamed on Facebook where hundreds of IHM followers joined the sisters in prayer. Sister residents hung signs from their porch railings that said, "Thank you." Others made signs saying, "Miss you." The shared prayer was a welcome activity for all those who've remained socially distant since the quarantine began on March 13. To date there have been no reported cases of Covid19 at OLP—another reason for a prayer of thanksgiving joined to the prayer for all those suffering in any way as a result of this pandemic.

More than 40 sisters and friends gathered outside Our Lady of Peace Residence to pray the rosary with the sisters inside under quarantine.
These past ten weeks of “sheltering at home” have been both challenging and deeply meaningful for the women in initial formation and also for me. Faced with the reality—cancelled inter-community formation programs and retreats, abruptly terminated ministerial experiences and formation classes, and restricted access to OLP, the IHM Center and sponsored works—I found myself asking: What now? Like all of you, the women in initial formation and I have had to respond creatively to the “new normal.”

At the beginning of the quarantine, Giovana Fuentes Bendivez, who is in her second year of the novitiate, was living at Cathedral Convent and volunteering several days a week at Jackson Terrace. Because of the recommendation to “shelter at home,” Giovana’s stay at Cathedral Convent was extended, while at the same time, her volunteer service with Friends of the Poor was curtailed. Currently, Giovana is enjoying the focus on community life and her participation in activities, such as praying, cooking, playing cards, taking walks and helping the sisters at Cathedral Convent navigate technological challenges.

My weekly meeting with Giovana is now via Skype. Fortunately, Giovana is technologically savvy, and she is motivated to communicate virtually at this time when in-person contact is not realistic. Giovana has been able to stay connected with her family and friends in Peru via WhatsApp, and she says that she has become the “psychologist at a distance” whom many depend upon for advice during this critical time.

Through her own initiative, Giovana also has been taking courses online at no cost. She has completed Seguimiento de Jesus (Following Jesus), a series of classes offered by Boston College, and The Science of Well-Being, a 19-hour course provided by Yale University. The one class that Giovana does not have to study online is English. When Giovana was no longer able to continue English classes with her sister-teachers at the IHM Center and OLP, Sister Michael Marie Hartman, who lives at Cathedral Convent, volunteered to tutor her daily!

Elizabeth “Liz” McGill, who currently is a canonical novice, was in the midst of an inter-novitiate program with other women and men in initial formation when her classes ended unexpectedly, and she had to finish what was to be an oral project on IHM history, charism and mission via PowerPoint. During these weeks of quarantine, Liz has continued her course on Feminist Theology with Sister Nancy Hawkins. Her final session, which was to be in-person, will now take place via Zoom.

Liz has been helping with the Food Give Away Days organized by Friends of the Poor. She also shops for sisters in the area who are unable to leave their homes. In coordination with Sister Mary Kay Faliskie, Liz planned a gathering of the sisters in Scranton to show their appreciation for the selfless service of staff at Our Lady of Peace.

continued on page 3
Formation, continued from page 2

Liz also enjoys planning fun activities. To celebrate “Cinco de Mayo,” Liz made a home-made piñata of a COVID-19 microbe and invited the sisters in Annunciation Community to take turns trying to break it. It was a great source of laughter and a wonderful way to relieve stress! Since the beginning of the quarantine, I have been meeting with Liz on Tuesday mornings in the basement rec room of the formation house or “novice cave” as Liz has begun to call it. Recently our meetings have taken the form of field trips that Liz plans and to which we both look forward. It is amazing how much ground can be covered in a car, literally and figuratively, as we travel together to sites in the surrounding area that have historical significance to our IHM Congregation!

As the days of social distancing continue to unfold, the women in initial formation and I welcome your prayerful support and your creative suggestions for making this time meaningful and memorable.

God Whispers
by Sister Johnice Grand, IHM
May 2020

To each person who is bent over in grief at the loss of a family member, friend
—God whispers, I am here.

For each person who is told you have the virus
—God whispers, I am with you.

To each person who is on a ventilator, respirator, oxygen
—God whispers, I am holding you and won’t let you go.

For all those who are dying alone without family, friends
—God whispers, feel my presence with you

God is whispering to all the homeless, forgotten and alone,
I have not forgotten you, I am your home, your shelter, your friend.

To the young children who do not understand what is happening to them, with sometimes no answer from day to day
—God whispers, I understand and will place the answers in your heart with calmness.

God whispers to the parents—I will help you to be strong for your family—I will give you the words to say to them.

God is whispering to the Doctors and Nurses in hospitals, all who help in any way, risking their lives everyday
—I will lift you out of your frustration and exhaustion and give you hope.

For all those in nursing homes, hospitals, personal care homes, those who feed and clean—to keep us safe —God sees the worry and sadness on your face and in your heart
—God whispers, I see you through your tears and know your fears—and whispers peace.

For all of us facing an unknown and uncertain future
—God whispers—I am your hope—I am your light, I am your courage and your strength—I am your resurrection.

Sister Mary Elaine Anderson at Theresa Maxis historical marker in Susquehanna, PA
Vocation Work Via ZOOM During This Pandemic

It seems the world has gone ZOOMing along these days during the stay at home orders. While our vocation venues such as schools, universities, parishes, and events are and will continue to be closed, there remains communication all around us. Sister Mindy has been answering e-mails from inquirers and keeping in touch with those curious about discerning religious life and wanting to stay connected. Vocation directors, although ZOOMED out, desire to be in touch with one another through ZOOM meetings. Sister Mindy has had meetings with the NRVC Mid-Atlantic group and a self-selected group of religious to check-in, pray, and socialize.

Sister Mindy met with the national NRVC Board via ZOOM for three days in a row to conduct business, amend bylaws and constitution language, interview, and invite 3 new members to the board, plan for the summer institutes (education for vocation directors) and hone in on plans for the annual convocation held at the end of October/beginning of November.

Sister Mindy will help with presentations to new vocation directors for the annual orientation program in July via ZOOM. (There's a pattern here: ZOOM!)

Sister Mindy is working with the diocesan vocation office to present the Bold Choices Retreat for young adults through recorded and live sessions via ZOOM as well as preparing a recorded XLT (Exalt - an evening of praise and worship, prayer, reflection, and exposition/benediction) in which she is the guest speaker.

While schools, universities, and parishes are and we continue to be under the 'stay at home' order, God's voice is never shut off and so Sister Mindy and others in vocation ministry continue to pray, plan, reach out, and hope in the future of religious life!

Did you know that...

- Many newer members of religious life see community life as what is distinctive and most attractive.
- Healthy and holy community life includes praying together, celebrating holidays and feast days as a community, living with other members, and sharing meals.
- Living at or near a ministry site and living simply in solidarity with the poor, marginalized, and neglected is ranked as 'somewhat' to 'very' important. The younger a respondent is, the more likely she is to prefer to live in a larger community... this is consistent with the findings from the 2009 study of newer members.
- A new member remarked, "What attracted me to my community was their joy. Since entering and being received, I feel whole for the first time in my life."

(2020 CARA Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life. Find the complete study at NRVC.net. This study was made possible by a GHR Foundation grant and NRVC is most grateful.)
ZOOM with
Our Lady of Grace

To register for programs go to:
* Once we receive your registration information you will receive an email with Zoom information and handouts.

Thursday, June 4
10:30 a.m. - noon via Zoom
The Tender Gaze of Jesus with Joan McGovern
After denying Him three times, Peter meets the tender gaze of Jesus and weeps. Each of us has denied Jesus through others by our mistakes and brokenness. Can we tell Jesus sincerely, "Remember me because I want to do Your will, but sometimes I just don't have the strength."
Free Will Donation

Thursday, June 11
10:30 a.m. - noon via Zoom
Resilience in Unsettled Times with Sister Ann Barbara DeSiano
God helps us draw forth the strength of our true being to withstand the turbulence of unsettled times.

Bro. Paul's weekly Zoom services:
Going forward a password is required:
ZOOM meeting #779 271 5713
Password: Sunday (case sensitive)

A Note from Sister Ann Barbara:
In this time of precaution due to the spread of the coronavirus, and in accordance with current federal and state guidelines, Our Lady of Grace Center will remain closed through at least Saturday, June 6.
Our prayers go out to all who are ill, those on the medical front lines, and all who are impacted by this virus in any way. Please keep us in your prayers as well.
Thank you and God Bless.

Thank You to Our Health Care Workers and Essential Personnel

On April 23, as an expression of gratitude, sisters and friends gathered outside Our Lady of Peace Residence with handmade signs to thank all the essential personnel including nurses, housekeeping, maintenance, food service, and administrators who keep the IHM senior sisters safe and healthy during this pandemic.
Our response to COVID-19 has led us to shelter in place, to stay at home, to minimize physical contact with others and to practice safe social distancing. At the same time that we’ve been invited into a necessary hibernation of sorts, in the Northern hemisphere Earth is moving towards the full flourishing and flowering of springtime, reminding us that the cycles of rest and renewal unfold in our lives.

As this season leads to the greening of the natural world, may it also lead to the greening of our understanding and practice of environmental wellness, one of the eight dimensions of our IHM Vital Living Plan. Our EarthCARE committee invites us to reflect on and integrate into our hearts the learnings of this dimension for our own lives and the life of our planet.

The Environmental Dimension of Wellness calls us to: be respectful of all surroundings; understand the dynamic relationships between the environment and people; be aware of our personal environment within and our outward behavior; bring harmony and wholeness into all we’re about.

In growing in environmental well-being, we begin with an awareness of our own interior environment where, through prayer and contemplative living, we create a spaciousness of heart, a spirit that welcomes and nurtures all. We work to deepen our consciousness of the ways our individual actions and attitudes impact the world around us and the world beyond us. We learn to practice reverence and care for Earth, our Common Home, individually and collectively assuming responsibility for the care of our environment. The restoration of our IHM land, the naming of our IHM Center as a Welcoming Space, and the selection of ecological integrity as one of our congregation’s five critical issues by our Office of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation speak to our collective seriousness when it comes to environmental wellness.

EarthCARE committee member, Sister Jean Coughlin, summarized our call in her article “Environmental Wellness” in the Spring 2019 issue of Journey. She wrote, “All that we do as individuals, our thoughts, actions and behaviors have an impact on the environment, on our well-being and the well-being of Earth and all that it contains. Now is the time to take this responsibility to heart for the sake of present and future generations.”

Facilitator Named for 2022 Chapter

Sister Pat Kozak, CSJ, a member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph, will join us as our 2022 Chapter facilitator. Pat has worked as a facilitator for many years and will facilitate this year’s Leadership Conference for Women Religious in August, which will be held virtually. She works full-time as a facilitator for religious congregations in Canada and the United States.

Pat holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Pacific School of Religion from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and a Masters in Religious Studies from Saint Louis University.

She has taught high school theology and served in vocation and formation ministry. Pat has served two terms in leadership for her congregation, concluding her leadership term when hers and six other congregations of Sisters of St. Joseph united to form the Congregation of Saint Joseph.

She has been a member of the Design Team for Engaging Impasse: Circles of Contemplation and Dialogue, serving as a guide and program staff member for the Engaging Impasse process and training seminar. Pat is also a regular contributor to Give Us This Day, a publication of the Liturgical Press.

Pat has served as a team member for retreats and pilgrimages for women to the Holy Land, accompanying fourteen groups of women over the past thirteen years.

We welcome Pat as a member of our future Chapter Planning Committee and as our 2022 Chapter facilitator.
Elected to UMD Council

Sister Maureen Schrimpe was elected to a two-year term on the Council of University System Staff Primary Member from the University of Maryland, College Park. All thirteen universities in the system are represented on the council which is under the UMD system chancellor.

Sister Maureen will represent 13,000 staff members from College Park. Sister Maureen has served at the University of Maryland since 1993.

In addition, Sister Maureen headed up a student team in a contest with 40 other universities for an innovative nutrition entry. The group's entry was selected to receive a gold award for most innovative nutrition entry. The award will be presented at the 2020 virtual national conference.

In Gratitude for Years of Dedicated Service

The IHM sisters typically hold our Service Awards Celebration in May. Due to social distancing restrictions, the awards celebration will be postponed to a later date.

At this time, we recognize our employees who have completed a milestone in their dedicated service during the 2019 year as well as our 2019 retirees.

5 Years of Service
Sister Mary Ann Adams.................................. Ministry Resources
Michele Ditchkus.................................................. Reception
Sister Ann Marie Lynott....................................... IHM Center
Margo Matticks.................................................. Nursing
Sister Rose Marie Mozzachio................................ Educational Enrichment Institute
Jane O’Neill........................................................... Associates
Melissa Owen............................................................. Nursing
Kellie Thomas............................................................. Nursing
Donna Trumbo............................................................. Nursing

10 Years of Service
Susan Ciannelli..................................................... Nursing
John Dermody.......................................................... Housekeeping
Mary Lynott............................................................. Nursing
Mike Zayac............................................................. Maintenance

15 Years of Service
Debbie Brundage DePrimo............................... Human Resources

25 Years of Service
Mary Ellen Flanagan........................................ Transportation
Accursia (Tina) Freda........................................ Nursing
Laura Ward............................................................. Nursing

35 Years of Service
Anne Boylan............................................................. Nursing

Retirees
Marianne Gambucci........................................... President’s Office
Sister Mary Helen Slavinskas.............................. Heartworks
Sara Thomas............................................................. Temporal Resources
Mary Lou Vandorick........................................... Business Office

Lake Ariel and Newton Lake houses are closed until the end of August. If the Lake Houses open earlier, reservations will be honored.
Human Touch by Mitch Albom  
Reviewed by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

Mitch Albom’s latest book, Human Touch, and the way he’s writing it, is just too great not to review, so I kept this title a secret until I could!

In these COVID-19 days, Albom was contacted and asked if he could possibly write something that would inspire those of us living through these times. Albom decided to take the challenge. He writes and publishes each chapter weekly!

Has he met his goal? I think so, but, I’m not sure. The book is designed to have 8 chapters (though each chapter includes what occurs over a period of days) and I only read Chapter 7 yesterday! Perhaps, by the time you read this, we will both know how it ends! Where can you read it? It’s currently available for free on Albom’s website: mitchalbom.com/human-touch-story. Google it. It’s now also available through Audible. If you can’t access either format… I hope that a print format is coming soon.

Albom is also hoping you will consider making a donation to his Detroit charity, which has now created a mobile unit that is bringing COVID-19 testing to the poor in the Detroit area.

Since each chapter is being posted weekly, Albom also posts a brief previous chapter video review that updates the reader on the work his charity is accomplishing. It includes links to each chapter’s release dates.

Since it’s not finished yet, let me just give you some sense of what it includes. Obviously, the story is set in the time of Covid19 in Albom’s hometown of Detroit as the news about the virus is just arriving in the U.S. Because Albom planned to integrate as many news story lines as possible, he decided to use the structure of an “intersection” and the plot revolves around four families that live on the corner houses of that intersection. For clarity sake, you may want to make your own list of who’s who in the families on each corner.

The story begins as the four families are arriving for their weekly gathering which rotates to each home. This week’s turn belongs to Dr. Greg Myers, a pulmonologist, and his wife, Aimee, who live in what is described as a McMansion with their two daughters, Ava and Mia. They are joined by the Lee family, Cindy and Sam born in Flint but of Chinese descent, with their housekeeper, Rosebaby and her son, “Little Moses” (both Haitians). The local pastor, Winston Towns, his wife, Lily, and their three kids are joined by Old Man Ricketts (owner of the Mill), his wife, Charlene and their grandsons, Daniel and Buck, whom they are raising.

If you imagine a macramé design, each person’s story line is tied together as the plot proceeds. If you think of the news, you know most of the elements already: a doctor in the ICU, patients dying alone, a Church service that infects the congregants, racism, armed protesters, celebrations with social distancing, and the quest for a vaccine. “Little Moses,” it turns out, never gets ill, seems to have healing powers and isn’t really Rosebaby’s child (she found him in the woods in Haiti). The plot questions the power of God but also includes a non-traditional religion and “Little Moses” has many dreams.

Hope that’s enough to peak your curiosity! This is one book that so many of you can read immediately! Here’s hoping Albom’s conclusion will be as surprising and hope-filled as all his other books have been!
Journey with us as we explore the sacred treasurers of the IHM Archives

Every sister has a story
by Jan Corbett

Sister Mary Anthony Duchemin, OSP

An Afro-Creole native of Saint Domingue, Marie Anne Maxis, who immigrated to Baltimore during the Haitian evolution with the Duchemin family, was educated “in the best traditions of the day.” She adopted the name of her benefactors becoming known as Betsy Duchemin. Betsy had one daughter Marie Alma Duchemin who also received an extensive education and in 1829 Marie Alma became a charter member (Sister Theresa Maxis Duchemin) of the new congregation, The Oblate Sisters of Providence. A few months later, Betsy Duchemin entered this same congregation and pronounced her vows on July 2, 1832, with the name Sister Mary Anthony.

At this time Baltimore was engulfed with cholera. The cholera epidemic killed thousands of people in Europe and North America, and created mass panic across two continents; the population was reduced drastically by deaths. The epidemic was caused by contaminated drinking water; it was a gastrointestinal disease and people became so dehydrated that they died. At the beginning of the outbreak, Sister Mary Anthony, the only Oblate trained nurse, volunteered her “service to the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable Baltimore residents at the city’s almshouse” (Williams). Three other Oblate sisters worked there who were segregated from the white nursing Sisters of Charity. When Archbishop James Whitfield of Baltimore fell ill, a member of his staff requested that Sister Mary Anthony come to assist. Before she entered religious life, she worked for Baltimore’s wealthiest; therefore, the members of the bishop’s staff did not call the Sisters of Charity. Archbishop Whitfield was nursed back to health in two weeks. Sister Mary Anthony returned to the almshouse but was called back to duty when the bishop’s housekeeper became ill. Twenty-four hours after being recalled, Sister Mary Anthony became ill and succumbed to cholera.

The Oblate Sisters continued with their life saving work at the almshouse until the epidemic subsided. In later years “church leaders and all but one city official systematically erased from local memory the Oblates and their courageous service to Baltimore’s black and white communities during the crisis, instead only citing the Sisters of Charity” (Williams). This small part of the story exemplifies the anti-black racism and discrimination within the church at that time. Williams reflects: “The violence of white supremacy is never exclusively for black people, it always imperils us all. If this is not understood, history has already made clear that we will be here again or somewhere much worse.”

As a retired nurse, I will never forget Sister Mary Anthony Duchemin. I can’t imagine what it must have been like in 1832 to walk into an almshouse. Sister was fearless; her ministry was her life, and she would do anything to serve the poorest of the poor. There were no gowns, gloves, N95 masks or protective gear we now wear. That makes her another “Wonder Woman” of history, a “martyr to her charity.”

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13

Sources:
Read this story at:  https://tinyurl.com/yaru2vxs
Sister Loretta Mulry, IHM  

by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

“If I am going to teach... why not teach for God.”

Loretta Mulry was born in Brooklyn, the oldest of 3 children followed by a brother, Philip, Jr., and sister, Evelyn. With a mother caring for two children under the age of two, Loretta learned responsibility young, doing tasks outside the home to help her mother.

The family moved to Port Washington where Loretta met the IHMs in 7th grade at St. Peter's School. They had a tradition of sending two students dressed as IHMs to a diocesan mass. Loretta’s name was selected! She wondered if this was a “sign from God.” She wanted to become a teacher and concluded “if I’m going to be a teacher, why not teach for God?” At St. Mary’s Loretta met and was influenced greatly by Sister Susan McMenamin, her chorus and band director.

By profession of her profession, Loretta, aka, Sister St. Laurence, had decided to be a science teacher. So Loretta taught elementary school in Clarks Green for four years and commuted on Saturdays to complete her degree.

Loretta taught high school science for sixteen years. Her favorite mission was St. John’s in Pittston, where she increased her physics’ background watching “Sunrise Semester” (on CBS). At least 30 students have remained good friends and she has tapped about 100 of them for the Silver Circle program!

After five years on the science faculty at Marywood College, Loretta served there as dean of the Gillet School for six years. Then she joined her family in Florida becoming the dean at Barry University where she served for eleven years.

Moving to FL allowed Loretta to spend time with her sister. After an accident when she was nineteen years old, Evelyn became a severe quadriplegic. Nonetheless, she travelled extensively, pursued a degree, worked as a social worker, had a child and was also a para-olympian!

After her service as dean and because of Evelyn’s husband’s premature death, Loretta moved to live with her sister. She continued serving Barry University as middle management in web design, grants research, and marketing.

In Florida only five years, Loretta fell and injured her left quadricep tendon. She managed her last twenty years by surgery/therapy/a walker, a cane and, at times, a wheelchair.

In 2006, her brother purchased a seventeen room house (Casa Maria) to be used as a convent. Besides her sister, one IHM and one SCC lived there. Loretta also invited other IHMs to vacation and retreat there.

continued on next page
Sister Loretta Mulry, continued from p. 10

Loretta surrounded herself with members of her Titusville parish’s Council of Catholic Women. After 25 years Loretta returned to OLP where she helps maintain the building’s inventory and has edited documents for the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC).

Loretta is also drawn to a “contemplative” life, being especially impacted by doing the 19th Annotations. Loretta believes the OLP Sisters should participate in the congregation’s governance. She takes the time to watch the Advisory Board meetings and takes copious notes. She’s organized “The Centennials” who meet after the meeting to discuss agenda topics.

She meets with her former Marywood colleagues who socialize and play games… now they continue to meet using Zoom!

In the time of COVID-19, Loretta has more time and fills it with communications and prayer. Not going to the main dining room—a source of in-house news—and with the depressing quality of the national news, having stimulating dinner conversation is challenging. Loretta has taken to “surprising her household” by cooking part of one evening meal weekly… mostly by using leftovers from the day’s noontime dinner.

Loretta believes “life is what you make it” and, at OLP, she has been able to create a fulfilling life.

IHM Development Office

After much thought, brainstorming and deliberation, the Board of Directors of the Sisters of IHM Foundation has decided to change our 2020 Sisters Celebration to an online virtual event. The main concern is for the safety of our IHM Sisters and our guests. We are putting together a wonderful online program to honor our 2020 Sisters of IHM Spirit Award honorees, Peter and MaryCarol Kanton. We will have some testimonials from former Spirit of IHM Award winners, and messages from our IHM sisters. Our own Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM, will serve as mistress of ceremonies for the program. Sister Maryalice is a former student of Mrs. Kanton’s.

The Kantons will be honored with the award in recognition of their commitment to and embodiment of the IHM spirit. The couple shares a great love for the IHMs and for the local community and they desire to give back with a focus on Scranton area nonprofits and IHM-sponsored ministries. Peter is owner of Kanton Realty, a real estate brokerage and appraisal firm. MaryCarol first met the IHM sisters as a child when her family relocated to Scranton, PA. She credits the sisters with having a profound influence on her decision to become a teacher. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from Marywood College (not University), MaryCarol taught elementary school for 39 years.

The Kantons reside in Moosic and have two daughters, Ann Weller and Colleen Devine, sons-in-law, Gerald Weller and Tom Devine, and four grandchildren, one of whom is a current student at Marywood University. Ann is a graduate of Bishop Hannan High School and Colleen graduated from Seton Catholic High School.

We are grateful to the Kantons for their generosity, fidelity and lifetime of service to the local community and to our IHM sponsored ministries.

Event updates will be posted on the Sisters of IHM Facebook page and at http://www.sistersofihm.org/sisterscelebration2020
Meet Our Associate, Robert Zito by Jane O'Neil

“...this is why I love the IHMs.”

This declaration from IHM Associate Robert Zito came moments after he read the congregation’s letter to Cardinal Dolan. The letter is in response to the Cardinal’s interview and remarks praising President Trump for his leadership and policies during an April 27 Fox and Friends telecast. Like the IHM Sisters, Robert believes in walking the talk. This Brooklyn native’s admiration for the IHMs began 20 years ago when his children attended Monsignor McHugh Elementary School in Cresco, PA. Robert was an involved parent at the school, but it was the presence of the sisters in the retreat center next door to the school that drew him in. In addition to the congregation’s ministry at Monsignor McHugh and the IHM Renewal Center in Cresco, Robert loves the IHMs for their service to the poor in the Scranton area through Friends of the Poor. He believes that IHM sisters exude mercy, love, and prayerfulness in all their ministries. Robert also experiences this distinct mercy, love, and prayerfulness in individual IHM sisters. His role model is Sister Catherine Ann Gilvary whom he met when in search of a spiritual director. A few years ago when Robert was looking for a spiritual director he also was searching for a group with whom he could grow in his faith. Robert found that group in a Circle of Grace that was beginning in Cresco, PA. He was one of four aspiring associates—the only man among seven women. Robert found the Circle of Grace to be a “wonderful experience.” The group shared their stories and their faith with one another on a deep level. Members came from a variety of backgrounds and faith experiences; all came with the shared goal of growing in their faith and in support of each other. A critical part of the experience for Robert is the fact that every Circle gathering began with sharing a meal… not unlike the family gatherings in the home in which he was raised by his mother and his grandmother. Robert was inspired by the commitment of the Circle’s facilitators in preparing for each Circle gathering. He was commissioned as an IHM Associate on January 12, 2020. He desires to be a leader of a new Circle of Grace one day in the future.

Robert describes himself as a “typical Catholic raised in a typical Catholic family.” He attended public schools and participated in weekly Mass through his college years. Soon after college Robert met his future wife, Debbie. They have two children, Michael and Lauren. Shortly after Lauren was born the family moved to the Poconos. There Robert has his own business in which he manages community properties.

raised by his mother and grandmother, Robert has always loved music and played several instruments as a child. After moving to the Poconos Robert became involved in the Christmas choir at St. Ann’s parish in Tobyhanna, PA. Before long Robert was singing in three parishes in the Cresco area. He takes real delight in leading liturgical music in parishes in the Poconos and several other venues. Music brings him closer to Jesus—so much so that Robert thinks of his music as his ministry. His favorite hymn is Lord, I Need You by Matthew Maher. The lyrics in the refrain of the hymn sum up Robert’s relationship with Jesus and the way in which Robert goes about living every day.

Lord, I need You, Oh, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh, God, how I need You

We, IHM Sisters and Associates celebrate Robert’s presence among us!
In Gratitude for Salon Service
by Sister Jo Ann Trama, IHM

The sisters at the IHM Center want to thank Sister Amanda Del Valle for volunteering to trim their growing hair two times while Lackawanna County remains in the red phase of the coronavirus shutdown. She also did it free of charge. The sisters are grateful Sister Ellen Maroney accepted Sister Amanda’s offer. Gratitude now embraces Sister Ann Marie Lynott who organized appointments and transformed the entrance to the back of the Theresa Maxis Center (vestibule area) into “Amanda’s Salon.” Tom Snyder of maintenance laid plastic on the floor and Sister Mary Ann Lang swept up after each trim. Before the happy sister left the “Salon” she may have placed a thank you post-a-note on the sign and left a donation for Friends of the Poor ($355) at the first trimming and to the Hermanas Dominicas de la Annunicata in Chichicastenango, Guatemala ($559) at the second trimming. The sign maker, Sister Jo Ann Trama, extends gratitude to: (a) maintenance for a stray window screen to which the sign was taped, (b) the sacristans for two metal flower stands that held the sign, (c) the face mask makers for the leftover fabric that was draped over the stands and (d) Sister Lucia, SPP for her tissue paper lotus flowers that decorated the stands. Again, Sister Amanda, we thank you.

IHM 2020 Jubilarians

The Liturgical celebration and luncheon for our 2020 IHM sister jubilarians for Sunday, July 26, 2020 is cancelled due to COVID-19. We live in the hope of being able to celebrate our jubilarians at some point during the fall months. As we know the situation in which we are living is very fluid and could change due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19. What will not change is our effort to ensure the safety of all of our sisters, their families, friends and of course the broader community. Please remember to keep all our sister jubilarians in your good prayers during this their jubilee year!

A Reminder from the IHM Archives Office

Stories of your COVID-19 experiences (of any kind) are welcome so we can add them to our file of "current history." Please send stories to archives@sistersofihm.org. You may also include them in your annals for this year!

Remembering John Kemper, P.S.S.

IHM Sisters wish to remember Father John Kemper (Society of St. Sulpice) who, at the age of 62, died May 21 after a courageous battle with cancer.

John was instrumental in commissioning the statue of Mother Theresa Maxis in the Chapelle Basse at St. Mary’s Seminary on Paca Street in Baltimore. The statue joined those of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton and Mother Mary Lange.

John created the Visitors Center that displays historical artifacts from the three congregations. He was interested in preserving the history of these three saintly women who prayed in the Chapelle Basse as young religious.

John also donated money to the 2015 OSP IHM gathering in Scranton to celebrate an evening event. He was most thoughtful and generous and a tireless "doer" for the Society of St. Sulpice and many others. Father John was a personal friend to several IHMs including Sisters Suzanne Delaney and Michael Marie Hartman.

Father John C. Kemper, P.S.S., was the recently retired provincial superior of the Society of St. Sulpice.
Fleet Management:

With the Caritas Fleet Management Program now in place for 6 months, many have had the opportunity to use the program when servicing their vehicle, while others will be requiring service in the next few months.

Here are a few reminders when having your vehicle serviced:

- It is recommended to use a National Account Vendor when possible to obtain the greatest discounts. To locate a National Account Vendor in your area, go to Business Office Online, Business Matters, Vehicles, National Account Shops by Zip Code. In the left-hand corner, enter your zip code. The authorized vendors will be listed. If no vendors appear, try another zip code in your local surrounding area. You can also contact NETWORK at 1.800.323.5916 for assistance.

- Maintenance and repairs over $200 for all congregation vehicles require the approval of NETWORK. Be sure to present the Driver Kit assigned to the vehicle when arriving for service.

- Payment for services will be processed through NETWORK. You will have no out-of-pocket expenses. The Business Office will pay NETWORK and allocate expenses accordingly.

- While non-national account shops can be used, there may be additional processing fees charged. A non-national account shop

- Since the program provides Emergency Roadside Assistance (24/7/365), this benefit replaces the need for AAA. Memberships should be cancelled at next renewal date.

- All vehicles have been assigned a WEX fuel card. The card is assigned to the vehicle not the driver. Payments for gas usage will be processed through the Business Office and allocated accordingly.

- If you have any questions or experience an issue during service, please contact Brad Forbush, Caritas Vehicle Services 1-414-813-8036.

Vehicle Services Contact Information

Maintenance & Repairs 1-800-323-5916
Emergency Roadside Assistance (24/7/365) 1-800-323-5916
Car Rentals (authorization required) 1-800-414-8036
Brad Forbush, Caritas Vehicle Services 1-414-813-8036
Accident Reporting 1-570-346-5419

Ministry Agreements:

Ministry Services Agreements and Employment Information forms have been mailed. Sisters serving in ministries within a Diocesan or Parish setting should complete the Ministry Services Agreement. Sisters employed outside the Diocesan or Parish Settings are asked to complete the Employment Information form.

Forms should be returned to the Office of Temporal Resources by Monday, June 15, 2020. If you need assistance, please contact Samantha Coco at 570-346-5419 or cocos@sistersofihm.org

Auto Records:

With the implementation of the Caritas Fleet Management Program Auto Record Forms are no longer required to be submitted to the Business Office. All maintenance and repairs are now tracked through the NETWORK system.

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 Congregations 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 in their deposit advices upon receipt to the Business Office.
FLASHBACK PHOTOS

IHM novices prepare candied apples for the Fathers and Friends Fall Festival in 1966. Pictured from L-R: Jane Snyder-Sister Margretta; Margaret (Maggie) Bowes Bovard-Sister Mary Cletus; Susan Holly-Sister Leonard; Martha Voinski-friend of Sister Romaine Krug; Ann Marie MacErlan-Sister Vincentia; Suzanne Decanini-Sister Johnetta; Karen Curtis Brown-Sister Marie Paul; Nancy Bohan-Sister Delia; Jean Coughlin-Sister Maria Daniel; Ellen Corbett-Sister Brian Mary; and Kathleen M. Kelly-Sister Maria Joseph.


From Friends of the Poor

With Memorial Day behind us, we are officially in summer mode. Our COVID-19 emergency drive-through food giveaways will continue until restrictions are lifted. We have fed over 30,000 individuals between March 18 and May 20 at these weekly distributions.

Friends of the Poor remains committed to providing a safe summer camp for our children. Through generous funding from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, we are working with Keystone College to provide a virtual summer youth camp. The safety and educational and social well-being of the children we serve remains of the utmost importance to us.

We are also proud to unveil our new logo, created by Condron Media. We believe it reflects our value of friendship, our mission to provide food security to the most vulnerable, our love of peace and justice, and the welcoming hand of our God, who remains at our side in love and hope for all.

As always, we thank you for your continued guidance and prayers. Know that you remain in our daily prayers as well.

Meghan Loftus
CEO, Friends of the Poor
Prayer for the Beatification of Mother Mary Lange

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endowed her with humility, courage, holiness and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and sick. You enabled her to found the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provide educational, social and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange’s love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred her vision.

Deign to raise her the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and a more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (here mention your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.”

IHM Congregation Vitae

as of June 1, 2020

Final Profession - 301
Temp. Professed - 1
Novices - 2
Candidates - 0
Associates - 172

Sisters of St. Casimir
Congregation Vitae

Final Profession - 43

IHM sisters stories and photos wanted to feature on IHM Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Send photos and brief articles to: fasolka@sistersofihm.org

IHM Calendar

Saturday, June 20
Advisory Board Meeting

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

Saturday, July 25
Assembly

POSTPONED!
Sunday, July 26
IHM Jubilee

Saturday, September 12
White Privilege TMCC
Sharon Durham

Saturday, September 19
Open to Sisters of IHM Advisory Board Meeting

October 2-4
Retreat with Liz Sweeney, SSJ

Friday, November 6
Nunsense
PAC Marywood

Sunday, November 8
175th Mass

God’s covenant has been fulfilled

Sister Mary Schmidling, IHM
May 17, 2020
in the 50th year of her religious profession
Task Force 3: Revision of IHM Constitution and Supplement

Approach to our work:

Task force 3 revised the section of our Constitution and Supplement that was entitled “Our Growth.” Over the past several years, we IHMs have consciously participated on a regular basis in contemplative dialogue with each other and used this method to break open our direction statements together. These practices have deepened our spirituality and broadened our consciousness of the beauty and brokenness within and around us and our corresponding responsibilities as women religious to embody unconditional love for the world. It is our hope that this broad revision of this section of both our Constitution and Supplement captures our journey and creates space for the IHM collective dream to continue to emerge.

The sisters that worked on Task Force 3 began each meeting in prayer, reflection and sharing. This time together created the space and context for the contemplative dialogue that occurred among us throughout the process of writing this section of our Constitution and Supplement. We were energized by each other’s ability to listen deeply, share and question with a spirit of holy curiosity. This way of working together opened a collective space where the new could emerge.

As we formulated and discussed the sections in our assigned portions of the Constitution and Supplement, we tried to create language that would inspire us and allow for space where deeper meaning could still emerge for us and for those who come after us. The words that you will read here were born within our collective hearts and souls and we hope that these concepts find an echo in our collective heart and soul as IHMs.

Documents can be found on the Sisters' webpage under Governance: [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org)

Suggested Process:

- Read the proposed draft of the Constitutions and Supplement silently.
- Notice the impact of the words as you quietly reflect. Where did you find inspiration? What energized you? What touched your heart?
- If you are considering this draft as a group, share your reflections with one another.
- After sharing, take a few more minutes of contemplative silence.
- Invite each member of the group to read a paragraph out loud. After the drafts have been read by single voices, discuss any feedback that you may wish to send to Task Force 3.
- Conclude the meeting by reading the passages together out loud.

Resources: These videos may be useful for personal reflection or conversation starters in groups regarding the work of task force 3 which was the section on “Our Growth.”

- The Power of Vulnerability by Brene Brown [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCvmsMzlF7o&t=9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCvmsMzlF7o&t=9s)
- Weaving the Bridge at Q’eswachaka [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dql-D6JQ1Bc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dql-D6JQ1Bc)
- Metamorphosis and Humanity's New Birth [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laKkZSgBM2k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laKkZSgBM2k)
- For Further Reflection [https://www.dropbox.com/s/iz9ep74bket6o4e/Imaginal%20Cells.docx?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/iz9ep74bket6o4e/Imaginal%20Cells.docx?dl=0)
- Lead like the Great Conductors [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9g3Q-qvtss](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9g3Q-qvtss)
- Eco-Christology: Living in Creation as the Body of Christ [https://www.dropbox.com/s/1e2xsalewpm3x9j/Eco-Christology%20by%20Ilia%20Delio.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1e2xsalewpm3x9j/Eco-Christology%20by%20Ilia%20Delio.pdf?dl=0)
Our IHM family is made up of sisters born and/or ministering in many different parts of the United States and our world. During this global pandemic, may we find ways to embrace each of these unique experiences and realities in our hearts and prayers. We are truly in this together in more ways than we can understand or imagine.

Here are some reflections and experiences from our sisters with connections in other countries.

When the Resolution of the Chapter 2018-2022 was pronounced, the part of "we wish to be in the midst of the pain of the world" made me very afraid. I resisted that part, and I wanted it to be replaced with other words ... Now God places me in the midst of and near to people's pain. I can touch the pain of my family, the children and families that I serve in my ministry, the community of doctors and nurses and people in general.

I can see, feel and touch the pain on the face of my sister Nancy who is a nurse, who every day returns home tired, exhausted, with her face hurt by the protective equipment she wears. But above all, I sense the pain caused by anguish and concern that she might pass the virus on to her beautiful children, 5 and 7 years of age.

I can see and feel the pain of the children and families that I serve in ministry, who have been immunized to the coronavirus, but are not immune to poverty and domestic violence. They carry pain and sadness on their faces because their mothers are out of work, and they do not have what they need to eat.

I can see the pain of the people who receive the order to stay at home, but cannot obey it because they have to go out looking for something to eat at the risk of getting the virus.

Here I am now "in the midst of the people's pain" as our Chapter Resolution says, but with the certainty that God is also here in this "new normality", teaching me to live with greater awareness of the fragile, the vulnerable and how connected we are to one another. - Elvia Mata Ortega, IHM

My country Colombia is responding well to the pandemic. The government put in place strict regulations from the beginning. One of the regulations is that people seventy years and older cannot go outside of their homes until the end of the quarantine. This regulation has saved a lot of lives and has protected the elderly population in nursing homes. Colombia is family-oriented, and parents will do everything to keep the regulations imposed to protect their families. Members of families are building a very strong bond with one another and with close relatives. Many are using this time for creativity and for solidarity with people and neighbors who are less fortunate. However, in the Caribbean area where temperatures are hot and humid and homes are small, some families are suffering from domestic violence. The dark part of the pandemic is that the poor population has been hit worst, and poverty is increasing rapidly around the country. - Amanda del Valle, IHM

I visited my mom and the rest my family members in Seoul Korea during the 2019 winter break. Soon after I returned to the States, the Southern Province of South Korea began to report COVID-19 incidents. Thankfully, the South Korean government took immediate action for testing and contact tracing. However, the infected people’s number increased steadily, and the virus spread like a wild fire for a few months. It started with less than 20 people and increased to a couple hundred. As of now, 11,078 have been infected, 263 died, and it has flattened now.

Having a 96-year-old elderly mother and family members living in Seoul, Korea, my emotions were going through the stages of shock, fear, surrender, and adapting to a new normal. The fast spread of COVID-19 in South Korea certainly shocked my mind. Finding that we don’t have the vaccine for COVID-19, I am in total surrender to God and ask His mercy to protect my mother, the people of South Korea and all of us. During this unprecedented situation, technology and the social media helped me be united with my family members. It is great to see my mom and my siblings through face-talk. However, I silently hold my fear and anxiety in my heart. According to current travel restriction guidelines, 14 days of self-quarantine requirement, and less frequent flights to South Korea, COVID-19, indeed, limits my mobility and my desire to visit my elderly mother at the present time. I pray for God’s mercy and care to protect my mom until we see each other in person—hopefully soon! - Angela Kim, IHM
The insights and observations that I have gained from Covid-19 help me to view this situation from various global perspectives. The pandemic has made very clear that every human being possesses an inherent dignity and that there is no nation or nationality that is spared from the ravages of this virus. It has awakened us to the fact that we are all part of creation and this virus does not care about race, religion, or any hierarchy that we as a society may have created in our minds.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of relationships and how we need to intentionally reach out to others during this time in new ways. Making intentional time to e-mail, call, send a card or connect with friends on Zoom just to enjoy their company. This virus has had a direct impact on our local community life, our families and our daily routines. I am adjusting to the different ways I need to be able to continue my ministry. I now am teaching online, sending notes, calling students, families and friends to cheer them up, and of course, sending prayers their way. It has been a blessing to keep in mind the international view of this COVID-19 experience. It has given me the opportunity to be creative and explore new ways to share faith stories, grief, music, art, writing, dance, cooking and virtual party time. There is also the chance to visit museums online, read, and study other topics that I have always wanted to explore. All moments are gifts! Enjoy and learn from them!  - Sister Cecilia Tji, IHM

As I write this reflection, I am ever so aware that I should be in Guatemala with the Marywood University students on their summer service trip. I am also very aware that the pandemic, which is affecting our lives in the U.S.A., is affecting the lives of people across the globe in ways that most of us are probably unaware.

As I communicate with the Dominican Sisters in Guatemala, I realize the degree to which we enter into one another’s joys and sufferings. Hermanas Rosa, Josefina, and Teresa call on a regular basis to check up on me. A call never goes by without them asking about the entire congregation as well, assuring me of their congregations’ prayers for our IHM sisters.

At the mission in Chichicastenango, the sisters are struggling to make ends meet and yet they carry a sense of hope and purpose. Schools have been empty since mid-March and yet teachers have to be paid. Education is at a standstill because there is no such thing as virtual classrooms for the poor. The rural highlands lack healthcare and access to clean water. The pandemic adds to the hardship of an already vulnerable people.

The Sisters know that many families are struggling so they prepare food bags from the bodega where corn, beans, rice, sugar are stored when school is in session. They stand at the gate of the mission with masked faces and share nourishment with needy neighbors. They enter into the suffering of the people they serve, but they hold fast to faith in God’s providence for a future of hope. They give me hope. May I have the grace to share that hope. How I long to be in Guatemala at this time! Somehow, through the advancement of technology, the communion of prayer, and the blessing of lasting friendships, I am.  - Donna Korba, IHM

In Peru and in the entire world, 2020 plans have been postponed, and our reality has been transformed; now we live confined and aware of our vulnerability. We now know that no economic power can save lives, restore our emotional stability, or assure us that we will be safe. This deadly and silent virus does not distinguish race, color and economic status; rather, the most powerful leaders are under its feet and without control. It pains me to know that in addition to living this disturbing moment in confined spaces, the poor are already hungry and will starve, and there are still no decisions or strategies that can protect them. However, I believe that a different life awaits us. Yes, different, but much better than before. Yes, we will be more united, more supportive, more hopeful. Yes, we will be more community-minded and give more meaning to loneliness. Yes, we will be simpler, humbler, more kind and more welcoming and so more able to restore dignity to the human being. God invites us to return to the essence of life and transcend our individual world.  - Giovana Fuentes Bendivez

Cuando se pronunció la Resolución del Capítulo 2018-2022, la parte de “deseamos estar en medio del dolor del mundo” me dio mucho miedo, me resistí a esa parte, quería que se cambiara por otras palabras… Ahora Dios me pone muy cerca en medio del dolor del pueblo. Puedo tocar el dolor de mi familia, de los niños y familias a quienes sirvo en mi ministerio, de la comunidad de médicos y enfermeras, del pueblo en general.

Puedo ver, sentir y tocar el dolor en el rostro de mi hermana Nancy quien es enfermera, que cada día sale cansada, agotada, con su cara lastimada por el equipo de protección que usa, pero sobre todo el dolor que le causa la angustia y preocupación de poder contagiar a sus pequeños niños de 5 y 7 años de edad.
Puedo ver y sentir el dolor de los niños y familias a quien sirvo en el ministerio, que se han inmunizado al coronavirus, pero no pueden ser inmunes a la pobreza, a la violencia doméstica, al dolor y tristeza que llevan en su rostro por no tener qué comer, porque sus madres se han quedado sin trabajo.

Puedo ver el dolor del pueblo que recibe la orden de quedarse en casa, pero no pueden obedecerla porque tienen que salir a buscar algo para comer con el riesgo de contagiarse.

Aquí estoy ahora “en medio del dolor del pueblo” como lo dice la Resolución de nuestro Capítulo, pero con la certeza de que Dios también está aquí en esta “nueva normalidad” enseñándome a vivir con mayor conciencia de lo frágil, vulnerable y conectados que somos y estamos. - Elvia Mata Ortega, IHM

Mi país Colombia está respondiendo bien al Covid-19. El gobierno ha impuesto unas medidas preventivas fuertes desde el principio de la pandemia. Unas de las medidas es que los ciudadanos mayores de setenta años de edad no pueden salir de sus hogares hasta nueva orden del gobierno. Esta medida preventiva ha salvado muchas vidas. Las casas de asilo han sido protegidos fuertemente para evitar el contagio de los ancianos. Colombia es un país con una fuerte orientación familiar, así que los padres de familia o las personas encargadas de cada hogar están haciendo todo lo posible por guardar las medidas preventivas. Estando juntos en sus hogares, las familias están edificando lazos familiares que incluyen a sus familiares más cercanos. La mayoría de las familias están utilizando este tiempo para la creatividad y para la solidaridad con las personas y vecinos que son menos afortunados. Pero en la zona del Caribe, en el cual los ciudadanos viven con altas temperaturas y humedad y sus viviendas son pequeñas, algunas familias están sufriendo de violencia doméstica. Otra parte oscura de la pandemia es que la población más pobre ha sido fuertemente afectada haciendo que la pobreza aumente rápidamente a través del país. - Amanda del Valle, IHM

Mientras escribo esta reflexión, estoy muy consciente de que debería estar en Guatemala con los estudiantes de la Universidad de Marywood en su viaje de servicio de verano. También soy muy consciente de que la pandemia que está afectando nuestras vidas en los EE. UU., está afectando la vida de las personas en todo el mundo de maneras que la mayoría de nosotros probablemente desconocemos.

Mientras me comunico con las Hermanas Dominicas en Guatemala, me doy cuenta de la profundidad en que entramos en las alegrías y sufrimientos de las demás. Hermanas Rosa, Josefina y Teresa me llaman regularmente para ver cómo estoy. Nunca pasa una llamada sin que ellos también pregunten por toda la congregación, asegurándome las oraciones de su congregación por nuestras Hermanas IHM.

En la misión en Chichicastenango, las hermanas luchan por llegar a fin de mes y, sin embargo, tienen un sentido de esperanza y propósito. Las escuelas han estado vacíos desde mediados de marzo y, sin embargo, hay que pagar a los maestros. La educación está estancada porque no hay aulas virtuales para los pobres. Las tierras altas rurales carecen de atención médica y acceso a agua limpia. La pandemia se suma a las dificultades de una gente ya vulnerable.

Las Hermanas saben que muchas familias están luchando, por lo que preparan bolsas de alimentos de la bodega donde se almacenan maíz, frijoles, arroz y azúcar cuando la escuela está en sesión. Se paran en la puerta de la misión con cubrebocas en sus rostros y comparten alimentos con los vecinos necesitados. Entran en el sufrimiento de las personas a las que sirven, pero se aferran a la fe en la providencia de Dios para un futuro de esperanza. Me dan esperanza. ¡Que pueda tener la gracia de compartir esa esperanza! Cuánto anhelo estar en Guatemala en este momento. De alguna manera, a través del avance de la tecnología, la comunión de la oración y la bendición de amistades duraderas, lo soy. - Donna Korba, IHM

En el Perú y en el mundo entero, los planes 2020 se han postergado y nuestra realidad se ha transformado; ahora vivimos confinados y conscientes de nuestra vulnerabilidad. Ahora sabemos que no hay poder económico que puede salvar vidas, que puede devolvernos la estabilidad emocional y la seguridad de que estaremos a salvo. Este virus letal y silencioso no distingue raza, color y estatus económico más bien los líderes más poderosos están bajo sus pies y sin control. Me duele saber que los pobres además de vivir este perturbador momento en espacios reducidos ya tienen hambre y morirán de hambre y todavía no hay decisiones o estrategias que puedan protegerlos. Sin embargo, creo que nos espera un futuro diferente, si diferente, pero mucho mejor que antes. Sí, seremos más unidos, más solidarios, más esperanzadores. Sí seremos una sociedad más comunitaria para darle más sentido a la soledad. Sí, seremos más simples, más humildes, más amables, más acogedores para devolver la dignidad al ser humano. Dios nos invita a volver a lo esencia y transcender de nuestro mundo individual. - Giovana Fuentes Bendivez