The History and Impact of White Privilege
Presenter Sharon Durham
September 12 via Zoom

We wish to invite you to consider that as people of faith and IHM sisters who are daughters of Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin, it is time for us to “pull back the covers” on centuries of cruel and violent attitudes, rules and laws, holding together systemic racism. We invite you to join us, bringing your thoughts, and questions about the history and impact of White Privilege and the harm racism has sewn for centuries, all across our world.

Please join us on September 12, 2020, for a presentation by Sharon Durham who has been an Associate of the Sisters of Mercy for more than ten years. Sharon has extensive experience in diversity training and the development of advocacy initiatives meant to foster improved life-opportunities for all people of color and for all issues impacting all women and children. Register by September 1 at: communications@sistersofihm.org

Advisory Board Plans Meeting for September 19

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on Saturday, September 19th via Zoom. IHM Sisters are welcome to attend the open meeting which will begin with prayer at 9:30 am and conclude at 12:00 noon. The Advisory Board will continue in executive session in the afternoon. In a format similar to that used during the Assembly, a portion of the meeting will include breakout groups for discussion. To assist with the planning and organization, IHM Sisters are reminded to register in advance as soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday, September 16. Please register at: https://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?80A4C8D780C2D6D581

Currently, the Advisory Board Planning Committee is working collaboratively with consultant, Mark Clarke, to develop an informative and engaging process. Advisory Board members are eager to hear from sisters about their experience participating in a Mission Circle and reflections on the Advisory Board’s processes that have been developed. With input provided by sisters during the open meeting on September 19th, the Advisory Board members will learn from these past few organizational years and consider effective ways to move forward.

In preparation, sisters may visit the IHM website, Sisters’ Section, to review documents and minutes of the Advisory Board as well as converse with one another via Mission Circle, Committees and other formal or informal groups. Additional materials and an agenda will be made available prior to the meeting.

LCWR Holds Virtual Assembly

Holding its first-ever virtual assembly, the members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) welcomed close to 900 people from across the United States and at least 13 other countries to a three-day gathering, held August 12-14.

Centered on the topic of “God’s Infinite Vision: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond,” the participants explored together the impact of COVID-19 and new understandings of racism on the mission and lives of Catholic sisters. Recognizing that the world has been irrevocably changed through the experiences of recent months, the assembly pro-
vided an opportunity for LCWR members to explore how they may individually and collectively respond to the needs of these times. Through presentations, prayer, and small group conversations, the members shared insights on how to lead in such an uncertain time and how they might learn from and support one another as leaders.

The participants included women religious serving in leadership in their own institutes as well as LCWR associates, guests, staff, and professional facilitators working with communities of Catholic sisters. Participants also had opportunities to share their own experiences and insights in small groups throughout the three days.

On the final day, the LCWR presidency – Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; Sister Elise García, OP; and Sister Sharlet Wagner, CSC – and LCWR executive director Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ presented three major initiatives of the organization. Noting the challenges facing the world and religious life, they called this a “crucible moment,” where the pandemic, racism, climate change, and concern for the future of religious congregations, have converged to create a period of “daunting challenge.” “How are we, as women religious, to respond to the pandemic when we ourselves are the most vulnerable to it and our own sisters are falling ill and dying?” the officers asked. “How are we to respond to viral racism when we ourselves have been complicit in sustaining it? How are we to respond to global warming when we ourselves are deeply implicated in the market economics that power it? And how are we as congregations to respond to these challenges when we are already fully engaged in the epic challenge of our religious lifetimes leading the way toward the end of one era of religious life into the unknown new era?”

In response to these challenges, the LCWR officers underscored the importance of three LCWR initiatives:

1. A five-year commitment to work on dismantling racism. The officers invited all members to participate in LCWR’s efforts to name and eradicate racism within themselves, their congregations, their ministries, and LCWR as an organization. This commitment had been announced to the members in June. Details of this commitment are being developed.

2. A designated fund to support the future of religious life in the United States. The officers announced the creation of a fund, available to organizations, that will support projects impacting the future of religious life and particularly the lives of young women religious. More information about contributing to the fund and applying for funds will be shared later. The LCWR national board approved the seeding of this fund with some of the proceeds ($1 million) which came from the sale of its Silver Spring, Maryland headquarters in 2018.

3. A national conversation on the emerging future of religious life. The LCWR officers launched this conversation with a challenge to all those present to create new ways for the mission of religious life to thrive well into the future. Their challenge stemmed from recent data on the future capacity of LCWR member congregations to provide leadership for their own communities. The data, gathered through a survey conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) and presented to the assembly by CARA’s executive director Rev. Thomas Gaunt, SJ, suggest that this is the moment for US religious congregations to find new ways to organize and administer themselves.

The officers noted that the accelerated pace of change in religious communities points to an urgent need to work across religious congregations to create new sustainable structures that assure a future for religious life. They urged leaders to seriously consider the implications of the current reality of large numbers of aging members in religious communities, and the entrance into religious orders in the United States of approximately 200 women each year, noting that there is “a clear call to our generation of leaders” to create new ways to organize the body of US women religious for mission and service.

The assembly closed with a blessing of the LCWR presidency, national board, and 15 regional chairs. This included a thank you to its outgoing officers including past-president Sister Sharlet Wagner. The assembly welcomed the new president-elect Jane Herb, IHM. A current member of the LCWR national board, she has been serving as the president of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe, Michigan) since 2012.
The Power of Love: An Irrepressible Urgency Toward Wholeness
Liz Sweeney, SSJ
October 2-4

Today thinkers from the fields of neuro-science, psychology, integral philosophy, science and theology are in conversation to discover how humanity can 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. Despite the tragic brokenness and division of these months, again and again we’ve witnessed in ways large and small, Love’s dynamic power at work in people fostering greater hope, healing and wholeness throughout our nation and world. As a community that chose wholeness as a core value, we will explore how even in the midst of chaos and uncertainty, we can consciously engage this power of Love to choose to become more whole within ourselves individually, together as a community, and in all our relationships—human and beyond human.

Sisters and Associates planning to join this retreat via Zoom, please register at communications@sistersofihm.org

2020 Sister Jubilarians Celebration

The IHM Leadership Team took a poll among our 2020 sister jubilarians and the majority of them voted to celebrate their congregational jubilee together with the sisters celebrating in 2021. We all look forward to having the opportunity to join all of our 2020 and 2021 jubilarians for a celebration following Assembly in July 2021.

Biography of Sister Kathleen Toner, IHM

I am working on a biography of Sister Kathleen Toner. Thanks to many who knew Kathy, I have many wonderful stories about her. In 2000 Sister Annmarie Sanders recorded four interviews with Kathy that are filled with her wonderful, wise reflections. As I approach the completion of this work, I would ask if you have any Kathy stories you would like to provide, I would be most grateful. Just send your stories to me at gannon@marywood.edu Thanks very much.

- Margaret Gannon, IHM

Prayer for the Intercession of Mother Maria Kaupas

Gracious God, we praise and thank You for Your faithfulness and love. You have blessed us with the example of Your servant, Maria Kaupas, whose deep faith in Your presence, love for the Eucharist, and zeal in fostering the faith life of others continue to inspire us. Through her intercession, we pray that __________. Help us to continue life’s journey with a heart filled with a profound faith in You and that trust which is born of love. We ask this through Jesus our Lord and the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

We celebrate 113 years of the Sisters of St. Casimir’s service to God’s people. Founded on August 29, 1907 at Marywood.
IHM Associates Minister in Sicuani during Pandemic

All of our associates and their families are affected by the pandemic that is sweeping our world. Associates are finding new ways to carry out their ministries in these days of quarantine, extreme caution, and loss. Our associates in Peru have adapted their approach to ministry as they continue to work closely with Sisters Eileen Egan and Ancilla Maloney in Sicuani. Far from us, these associates live the IHM Core Values and Charism in extreme conditions and circumstances. Some might say that our associates and IHM sisters in Peru ministered in extreme conditions and circumstances before Covid19 – now it is all the more challenging.

During the quarantine, which continued in the Andean mountainous region until June, Sister Eileen offered a catechetical program for children, teens, and adults. Our associate, Casilda Morocho, secretary in the parish of San Felipe, where three IHM sisters minister, rode her bicycle to the parish each morning to help with the program. Casilda assisted the sisters in putting together the program, based on the Sunday Gospel according to Matthew, and then helped explain it to the more than 200 people who registered. Mindful of the parishioners’ devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Casilda displayed the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel outside her office for the nine days prior to the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on July 16. She continued to do so afterwards to help the people remember to pray for Our Lady’s protection and intercession as families tried to cope with the presence of the coronavirus. Casilda’s husband, Andres, a primary grade teacher, is assigned to a rural school in the mountains but these days he has to teach from home by cell phone. When Andres is able to return to the school for class, his 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students will be in a one room school. Imagine teaching first graders to read by cell phone! And, the signals in the mountains often fail. Bishop Pedro Bustamante celebrates Mass for the parish each Sunday evening. It is broadcast over Radio Sicuani or on Facebook. Many of the parishioners watch the Mass, listen to the bishop’s sermon, and then respond to questions and write their own prayer relative to the Gospel.

Our associate, Delfina Hualla, was teaching religion last year in a high school near her home. Delfina is not a tenured teacher and was reassigned to a new school where she doesn’t know the students. Most students don’t have computers and, if they do, there is no face-to-face instruction. Their only option is to listen to a class presentation on cell phone via What’s App. Some students, who do have phones, are too poor to add minutes to their phone. Delfina’s husband, Julio Cesar, usually assists Sister Ancilla with her library/recreation program, which has not been available since March 15. Julio is also enrolled in the University of Gregoria Santos where he is studying online to be a teacher. Never too busy to lend a hand to the sisters, Delfina and Julio Cesar recently did some repair work and painting at the convent.

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Associate Matilde Rendon has her own little restaurant located on the city plaza, but that, too, has been closed. She has been advertising to sell take-out dinners.

Maura Aguilar was in a terrible bus accident with her husband, Domingo, last December. Sadly, he lingered until May when he died from his injuries. Maura was injured also and both were staying in Cusco with their son, Henry, who is a physician. Maura has endured surgery to replace all her teeth and has not yet returned to Sicuani. Maura is vital as a presenter and translator to the Quechua catequesis conferences which Sister Eileen hosts three times a year. These conferences have been cancelled thus far this year.

Our Peruvian associates’ commitment to IHM Core Values and Charism is evident in all aspects of local and parish life in Sicuani. We support them in spirit and prayer always and never more than in this, the 175th anniversary year of our beloved congregation. Their courage, valor, and endurance in their own life circumstances provide a model for us as we all strive to carry on in these pandemic times.

Happy Independence Day! ¡Feliz Dia de Independencia!

During the month of September, Guatemala and Mexico—two countries that are dear to the hearts of many of our IHM sisters—celebrate Independence Day.

15 de setiembre – ¡Feliz Dia de Independencia, Guatemala! Sister Donna Korba ministered for 12 years in Chichicastenango where she worked side by side with the Hermanas, Dominicas de la Anunciata. Reflecting on her experience, she writes:

I appreciate the joyful and resilient spirit of the Mayan people. They have suffered much throughout the centuries and still they live life with gusto and reverence. My dream for Guatemala is that the world might come to appreciate the wisdom and richness that the indigenous culture has to offer.

Yo aprecio el espíritu de gozo y resiliencia de la gente maya indígena. Ha sufrido mucho durante los siglos; sin embargo, viven con gusto y reverencia. Mi sueño para Guatemala es que el mundo aprecie la sabiduría y la riqueza que la cultura indígena ofrece al mundo.

16 de setiembre - ¡Feliz Dia de Independencia, México! Sister Elvia Mata Ortega was born in Santa Maria del Oro, Durango, Mexico and currently ministers to children at risk in Monterrey, Mexico. This is her dream for her country of birth and for her Mexican brothers and sisters:

Sueño vivir en un México donde haya igualdad social, un México donde nuestros niños se sientan seguros y con oportunidades para acceder a una vida digna. Sueño un México en el que reconozcamos y apreciemos la abundancia que Dios nos regala para que cada uno de los mexicanos tengamos lo suficiente para vivir en armonía.

I dream of living in a Mexico where there is social equality, a Mexico where our children feel safe and with opportunities to access a dignified life. I dream of a Mexico in which we recognize and appreciate the abundance that God gives us, so that each one of us Mexicans have enough to live in harmony.

Don’t miss these Animotos made available through the IHM list:
• Guatemala with photos of Sister Donna and other IHM sisters who have traveled to Chichicastenango as part of the IHM Immersion Experience or one of the Marywood Service Trips
• Mexico with photos of its traditions, places and typical food as well as Sister Elvia’s ministry at Padre Severiano Martinez Home for Children
Initial Formation Update by Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM

In United States culture, September usually marks the beginning of new programs and the time to reconnect with peers that we may not have seen during the summer. September 2020 brings with it a newness that we have not experienced in past years. This fall the Inter-community Formation Programs and connections with women and men in initial formation from other congregations will take place virtually instead of in person.

Both the Hudson Valley and the Delaware Valley Areas of the Religious Formation Conference (RFC) sponsor the formation programs in which the IHM women in initial formation participate. Sisters Elizabeth DeMerchant, Giovana “Gio” Fuentes Bendivez and Elizabeth “Liz” McGill will attend these virtual presentations of the Hudson Valley Area during the fall:

- Healthy Community Life or No Religious Life by Don Bisson, FMS
- Exploring Prayer Styles and Traditions by Bob Pierson, OHC, Jean Marie Holup, SS.C.M., Elaine Bebyn, M.P.F. and Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM
- The Vow of Obedience by Janet Mock, SSJ

Sister Elizabeth McGill will attend via Zoom the course titled Human Development and Integration that is being offered by Sister Suzanne Mayer, IHM, through the Delaware Valley Area. Topics will include: Family of Origin, Addiction/Co-dependency, Human Sexuality, Conflict Resolution, Transitions, Intergenerational Living and Intercultural Living. The course will take place on Thursdays throughout the fall and will continue into the spring semester.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted not only inter-congregational programs but also classes and formative activities in which our IHM novices usually participate. Fortunately, they are technologically savvy, and they have been able to find courses and retreat opportunities online as well as continue meeting with their spiritual directors via the Internet.

Sister Giovana Fuentes Bendivez is presently participating in a Program for Animators called Laudato Si – Time of Creation 2020. The seminar introduces the participants to the causes of climate change and how it affects the most vulnerable. The presenters have encouraged the participants to take a leadership role in promoting ecological healing within their communities and protecting the “common house” that is shared by all of creation.

Gio is committed to bringing Laudato Si alive in the environment in which she lives. For a recent birthday party in Annunciation Community (formation house), Gio asked the sisters not to use...
Every Sister Has a Story to Tell

For the Archives, September is a re-orientation month as we put the Record Room/Cold Room back in shape after some construction at the IHM Center. That construction has affected the ceiling areas of the Cold Room which meant removal of some stacks, movement of others and everything covered with heavy plastic. Now we are repositioning items for normal functioning!

As we readjust, perhaps you can do some rearranging also. Attached are two “web addresses” for your playful remembrances of IHM heritage. They will take you to the website "jigsawplanet" where you will find a puzzle to be solved easily (with few pieces) or if you wish you can increase the number of pieces to increase the difficulty!

https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0f984ebf02ff (arch)
https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=10ad37448863 (chapel)

“Help,” if needed, can be found at the top of play area or at the very bottom of the screen.

As you solve the puzzle, think of the pieces of your ANNALS that will complete your picture of 2019-2020 from your location during these pandemic challenges! We need your story, a critical piece of our IHM story! The ANNALS tell the future generations how we lived out our charism; they are living witnesses to our heritage and help the preservation of our community’s story: its past, present and future.

See IHM website, Sisters Login, Documents for ANNALS Guide. We want to receive your part of the IHM story soon! Please mail annals to archives@sistersofihm.org Thank you!

175 Pints for 175 Years

We work together every day to do important work. But now we want to accomplish something even more meaningful. The Red Cross has to collect 15,000 blood donations every day to have enough blood to help patients in 2,700 hospitals and transfusion centers across the country. That’s a lot of patients in need and all of us, coming together, can help ensure patients receive lifesaving blood.

So Sleeves Up and help us reach our goal. Make and keep an appointment to give blood to the American Red Cross. Make an appointment at https://sleevesup.redcrossblood.org/campaign/175-pints-for-175-years/

The Sisters of IHM are celebrating 175 years of joyful, loving hospitable service with God’s people. In honor of this anniversary, a virtual blood drive is being hosted, 175 pints for 175 years. Please join us in the lifesaving ministry by rolling your sleeves up. Drive ends November 10, 2021.

Please send number of pints donated to 175pints@sistersofihm.org if not donating through this website: https://sleevesup.redcrossblood.org/campaign/175-pints-for-175-years/

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paper plates which, although biodegradable, emit methane, a contributor to climate change, when they are placed in a landfill and surrounded by inorganic material.

In addition to her online seminar, Gio is taking English classes three days a week with Sister Michael Marie Hartman. She currently is waiting for a place of formative activity to be determined.

Sister Elizabeth McGill will be transitioning into her second year of the novitiate on September 9. During the summer, she helped with the St. Joseph Center Festival, volunteered at Friends of the Poor and occasionally assisted sisters who were moving from one place of residence to another. Liz currently is doing her formative activity in St. Petersburg/Tampa, Florida. She is living in community with Sisters Florence Marino and Lisa Perkowski; and she is serving at the Academy of the Holy Names.

Thank you to all who accompany and pray for Elizabeth, Giovana and Liz as they continue their discernment during initial formation!
IHM Sister Receives Award

Sister Sandy Grieco, IHM, NBCC is a Multiplying Good One in a Million Award recipient. She is among the millions of people who are putting others first and using service as a solution to the problems we're facing. Read their story below then nominate someone who's making a difference during this unprecedented time!

- One in a Million Award recipient: Sister Sandy Grieco, IHM, NBCC
- Where she is multiplying good: Wilmington, DE
- How she is multiplying good: Throughout this spring, Sister Sandy Grieco has supported students through all of the changes that COVID-19 has necessitated. Offering academic, social, and emotional support, we are proud to count Sister Sandy Grieco as a Students in Action advisor.

A History of "Multiplying Good"

Since our founding in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft Jr., and Sam Beard, we have honored thousands of the country’s most significant trailblazers and change makers, as well as more than 63,000 unsung heroes. Created during a time of widespread national discord, we have become synonymous with the power of public service and good in America.

Our immersive training programs, activation opportunities, and prestigious awards platform help individuals and organizations create change and multiply their impact in the community.

Through corporate partnerships, we recognize the service of outstanding employees, and help to build caring workplaces where everyone is committed to positive change. Through media partnerships, we recognize grassroots unsung heroes and tell their stories to more than 100 million Americans each year. In middle and high schools nationwide, we are empowering tens of thousands of young people to realize their potential, develop core 21st century skills and deliver dramatic impact on the lives of those around them.

Oven Roasted Parmesan Zucchini

submitted by
Sister Maureen Schrimpe, IHM

5 minutes prep. 10-13 minutes cook time. Serves 4.

Ingredients:
- 2 large zucchini or summer squash
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1/3 cup of parmesan cheese, grated
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

1. Slice zucchini into 1/4 inch rounds and add to a large bowl. Add olive oil, garlic powder, salt and pepper, and toss to coat.
2. Arrange squash on a rimmed baking sheet in a single layer. Sprinkle evenly with parmesan cheese.
3. Bake until just tender, 9 - 10 minutes. Turn broiler on high and broil 2-3 minutes until golden brown.

Enjoy!
Vehicles

Insurance cards for all congregation owned vehicles have been mailed. Insurance coverage is effective 9/1/20 to 9/1/21. Should you need a replacement insurance card, please contact Linda Pochis at 570-346-5494 or pochisl@sistersofihm.org.

Fleet Management:

With the Caritas Fleet Management Program now in place the following are 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.
- While non-national account shops can be used, there may be additional processing fees charged.
- Maintenance and repairs over $200 for all congregation vehicles require the approval of NETWORK. Always 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.
- Since the program provides Emergency Roadside Assistance (24/7/365), this benefit replaces the need for Triple A. 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.

Central Accounting

Monday, August 31, 2020 marks the end of another fiscal year for the Congregation. The Business Office requests all Central Accounting paperwork through August 31, 2020 be sent to the Business Office no later than September 14, 2020.

Medical/Dental and Mandatory Health Insurance Notices

Important information regarding the IHM Congregation’s sponsored medical and dental insurance benefits as well as mandatory health insurance notices for the plan year 2020-2021 are available on the Congregation’s website at www.sistersofihm.org/Sisters Login/Business Office Online/Business Matters/Medical and Dental-Aetna.

As required by law, the following information is available under Mandatory Notices. Please note that no action is required by you at this time.

- Certificate of Creditable Coverage for Medicare D Purposes-This information does not apply to and may be disregarded by Aetna plan members that are currently not eligible for Medicare.
- Health Insurance Exchange Notice-The Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary has provided a health plan at no cost to its members. This coverage exceeds the minimum coverage thresholds as outlined by the Affordable Care Act, and therefore there is no benefit to be gained by shopping plans offered in the Marketplace.
- HIPAA-Notice of Privacy Practices
- The Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act
- Notice of HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights
- Patient Protection Disclosure
- Premium Assistance and CHIP Notice
- Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act-This notice outlines provisions for breast cancer treatment and reconstructive surgery in connection with a mastectomy.

Vehicle Services Contact Information

Maintenance & Repairs
1-800-323-5916
Emergency Roadside Assistance (24/7/365)
1-800-323-5916
Sisters Undertake Restoration of Stations of the Cross by Sister Babette Opferman

In July of 1988, a set of 15 symbolic outdoor Stations of the Cross were carved in wood by Sister Ave Maria Foley in memory of her mother Anna. Anna’s name is carved into several of the stations, and Sister Ave's name, along with IHM and OLP, is carved into station VI. The stations were installed near the Theresa Maxis Center and near the site of Our Lady of Peace Residence, until they were removed for the new building to go up. When OLP was completed in 2006, Sister Mary Alice Jacquinot's father offered to oversee the relocation of the Stations in gratitude to our Sister Emerita. They have been on the path between the hermitages and Lourdes Shrine ever since.

Two years ago several sisters noticed that one of the stations had a large hole in it, as if had been pecked by a woodpecker. There were some cracks in a few others.

Sister Babette Opferman offered to clean, repair and weatherproof all of the stations as soon as it was feasible. Along came the quarantine and time was provided for this project, which has now been in process since early June.

Sister Marianne Knight kindly offered to help, and painted all the mounting brackets, plus the rooftop on each Station. With her help, we are now finishing up and we hope the stations will be reinstalled in September.

It has been a great gift to see those carvings come back to life again. It was Sister Ave's hope that praying these Stations of the Cross would bring people closer to God.

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Local Community Fidelity Checking Accounts
Summer is a time for many changes within local communities. Any changes in the Local Community Treasurer requires a new bank signature card to be completed. Contact Kelly Durko at 570-346-5413 or durkok@sistersofihm.org to report the change.

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 their deposit advices upon receipt to the Business Office via mail or electronically to IHMfinance@sistersofihm.org
Does Earth have a voice?

In previous Updates, our EarthCARE committee has shared the voice of our Earth expressed in birdsong, in the comments of neighbors responding to the solace and beauty of our land, in our own deep listening to the rhythms of our environment leading to greater wholeness and well-being.

Now our EarthCARE committee invites us to collectively listen to the cries of Earth through observing the Season of Creation. Every year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect Earth, our Common Home. This year the theme for the Season of Creation is “Jubilee for the Earth.” Jubilee, celebrated every fifty years, involves release from indebtedness, a time when injustices of the past fifty years are to be restored. Jubilee calls us to be a prophetic voice on climate injustice, a voice that calls for us to restore our Earth.

The Season of Creation is a time to reconcile ourselves with creation. A time to acknowledge that tipping points are being reached, threatening the lives of the most vulnerable and putting the lives of future generations in jeopardy. A time when faith communities are called to raise a united voice ahead of the 26th annual United Nations Conference to address the climate crisis. This conference (COP26) is particularly significant as parties are due to announce how they will implement the Paris Climate Agreement (and whether they will fall short). A time when faith communities are called to support and challenge their countries’ leadership to implement visionary and significant goals for the care of our Earth.

We know that the Holy One speaks to us from everywhere. Everywhere, we hear the groaning of creation. Everywhere, we grow in awareness of Earth’s pain and loss, which is our pain and loss also. In this time of Jubilee, may we listen, and listen intently. May we participate in the Season of Creation and embrace this deep listening through:

- **Prayer:** including praise for God’s provision, repentance for our complicity in the suffering of Earth and our neighbors, and intercession for those most vulnerable to climate chaos;
- **Practice:** auditing our own mistreatment of Earth and committing to new practices individually and collectively;
- **Advocacy:** encouraging states to insure that climate justice and steps to a green economy are part of COVID-19 economic recovery plans;
- **Action:** participating in civil action to put pressure on governments to produce ambitious national targets for COP26.

As we yearn for the moral imagination that accompanies Jubilee, may we work in partnership with the Spirit of God to renew the face of creation, day by day.
2020 Sisters Celebration

Every summer since 2014, the Sisters of IHM Foundation has hosted a dinner celebration in honor of the IHM sisters with hundreds in attendance. This year due to the pandemic, the IHM Sisters Celebration was conducted as a virtual event to help ensure the safety and health of our sisters and guests. Special thanks to Sr. Mary Alice Jacquinot, IHM, mistress of ceremonies and Peter and MaryCarol Kanton, 2020 Spirit of IHM Award Recipients.

“Even though the event was in a different format this year, it was a complete success,” said Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, executive director, IHM Sisters Foundation. She credits IHM development staff members and volunteers for putting together a professional program which raised over $135,000 in support of the IHM Retirement Fund.

Visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgCcJS5_MJk to view the entire program.

Silver Circle

Sellers: Please return your Silver Circle membership tickets to the development office as soon as you can. The first drawing will be held October 21, 2020. When reaching out to family and friends this year, consider asking neighbors, co-workers, former students, and parishioners to become Silver Circle sellers.

If you aren’t a Silver Circle seller yet, consider this: A yearly membership is only $25 and there are 36 chances to win monthly from October through June. With a total of $30,600 in cash prized awarded, you, your family, and your friends do not want to miss this opportunity!

Visit www.sistersofihm.org/silvercircle or call 570 346-5431 for more information.

IHM T-shirts for sale: https://www.bonfire.com/join-the-sisters-of-ihm/
Sharon Durham articles on white privilege: https://sw.sistersofihm.org/index.php/visioning-the-future/
Task Force Revisions to Constitutions: https://sw.sistersofihm.org/index.php/communications-resources/
Sisters of IHM Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sistersofihm
Sister Marie Lourdes Vanston, IHM by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

“Empathy and a Sense of Resurrection”

“I was born and raised above a funeral home. I am definitely a funeral director’s Daughter!” Thus began one of the most amazing conversations I’ve had in a very long time!

Sister Marie Lourdes Vanston (born Nan – “Nance”) is from West Scranton, the oldest of four children of Marian and Thomas Vanston (Tom, Marian and Jim). Nance was only six when she “entered the family business” – arranging chairs and moving flowers. In the 1940s, transitioning from being “waked at home” to “the funeral parlor” meant viewing hours went from 7am to 11pm and the director’s family provided three meals a day to the grieving family in their residence upstairs. During those hours, Nance had the opportunity to observe her mother as she consoled families and, because many of the final services were at the funeral home, to listen to her father’s “sermons.” Thus, Marie learned empathy from her mother and “a sense of resurrection” from her dad. However, having listened to the rest of her story, I would add that Marie also learned what “daily resurrection” means from both her parents – that ability to “rise up, face the day and move on!”

Being the oldest daughter in an Irish family, Nance came to St. Patrick’s School with the subconscious expectation that she would become a nun. Marie does, however, give special credit to her IHM teachers - Sisters Eva, Marionette, Benedicta and Rose Angela – and her sponsor, Sister Celine Duffy.

The Marian Year was 1954. The IHMs prayed that they would have 54 postulants. Nan Vanston was one of them! “Marie Lourdes” did suggest (in writing!) that she might be the IHM funeral director.”

Marie’s sister, Marian, was also a member of the congregation – Sister Mary David – for 18 years. She went on Home Ministry to care for her mother. During Marie’s time as superintendent in Wilmington, her sister was in a car accident. Marie travelled to Scranton on weekends to care for her. Oh…and…at that time, Marie had been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and was delaying surgery/chemo so she could do so! Gratefully, the congregation welcomed Marian home and cared for her at the Marian Convent until her death.

In 2001, the unspeakable happened. Marie’s baby brother – Jimmy – living in Chicago – had gone missing. He’d been brutally murdered in an attempted robbery. Marie wrote to anyone she thought might have influence over the charges. While she wanted justice for her brother, she did not want anyone given the death penalty. Perhaps, more amazingly, was the grace Marie displayed during the trial as she met for prayer each morning with the families of the accused.

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God’s covenant has been fulfilled

Sister Claire Marie Kulp, IHM
August 28, 2020
in the 40th year of her religious profession

IHM Congregation Vitae
as of September 3, 2020

Final Profession - 298
Temp. Professed - 1
Novices - 2
Candidates - 0
Associates - 172

Sisters of St. Casimir
Congregation Vitae
Final Profession - 43

IHM Calendar

Saturday, September 12
9:00 a.m.–3 p.m
White Privilege
with Sharon Durham
via Zoom and Videostream

Saturday, September 19
Advisory Board Meeting
Open to Sisters of IHM
via Zoom and Videostream

October 2-4
via Zoom and Videostream
Retreat with Liz Sweeney, SSJ

Friday, November 6
(Postponed)
Nunsense PAC Marywood

Sunday, November 8
(Postponed)
175th Mass PAC Marywood University

“We are sent to be prophetic witnesses to the presence of God in the world.”

T-shirts available until September 16
www.bonfire.com/join-the-sisters-of-ihm/

Proceeds benefit the Sisters of IHM Retirement Fund

Sister Marie Lourdes cont. from p. 13

After the trial and a sabbatical, now cancer-free Marie joined the Education Department of St. Joseph’s College in Patchogue, L.I. At one point, while driving, Marie had a seizure that resulted in physical injuries that required her to first experience life at OLP as a temporary resident in therapy. It was also a time when she was diagnosed with “post-polio-syndrome” (she’d had polio in the novitiate).

This syndrome dramatically impacts her ministry and living choices. And now while doing data-processing support for Friends of the Poor, she’s become a permanent resident of OLP.

You should know that doing this interview was like going to an Irish wake. We laughed a lot! Because we do not live on the same floor, we had to find a mutually acceptable interview location. Yep! Marie and I talked in “the IHM funeral parlor” and, once again, Marie lives on the second floor!

Marie with best friend Elise Bier, RSM at Elise’s 80th birthday celebration in 2019

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Marie Lourdes with best friend Elise Bier, RSM at Elise’s 80th birthday celebration in 2019
Notes of Gratitude

Gratitude and thank you for the masses, prayers and warm thoughts relating to the death of Dolores Soster, sister of Sister Agnes Panik.
- The Panik and Soster families, and Sister Agnes Panik

In the name of Regis Milan’s wife, daughters, and sisters, we wish to thank you for your prayers, masses, calls, and messages to assure us of your love, concern and sympathy during this difficult time. We watched Rege try for two months to conquer the ravages of the Covid-19 virus until there was no more fight left in him.
Gratefully, Sister Janet Milan

Sister Terry O’Rourke and the family of Rosanne O’Rourke Byrne want to thank the IHM sisters and associates for your kind outreach at the time of Rosanne’s death. Your phone calls, emails, prayerful support and memorial donations were deeply appreciated.

Sister Janet Milan

IHM Director Update
The online directory at www.sistersofihm.org

Estelle Gavel
19morningstar60@gmail.com

Delia Marie McNeirney
delia.ihm@gmail.com

Sister Mary Jane Maloney
Our Lady of Peace Residence
570-330-8605
cell phone: 917-363-6661

Sister Ann Marie O’Brien
Our Lady of Peace Residence
570-330-8568

It is with a humbled heart that I thank you for your guidance and support over the last several months. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought us all to a new reality. We are frontline witnesses to the increased need in our community as well as the increased generosity from our community.

In addition to our 18 Covid-19 emergency food distributions, Friends of the Poor concluded a very successful virtual Camp Connections and had major renovations done at our Jackson Terrace Pantry. The remodel included new flooring, shelving and work stations, and a fresh coat of paint to brighten up the area.

We are also happy to welcome our two new Jesuit Volunteers, Andy and Amelia. They will be working alongside Sister Ann Walsh in our Jackson Terrace Pantry and warehouse and will be assisting with off-site food distributions and other programming.

Friends of the Poor’s Family to Family Food Basket program is working to come up with new ideas for our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and food distributions. These traditions will continue but with a different format in keeping with social distancing guidelines. I will keep you updated on our plans.

Thank you again for walking with us in our mission to serve the most vulnerable in our community.
- Meghan Loftus, CEO, Friends of the Poor

IHM Sister Conducts Ecumenical Service

Sister Anna Tantsits and Friar Peter Chepaitis, OFM, of Bethany Ministries conducted the annual summer ecumenical service in Middleburgh on July 26, the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Village of Middleburgh. Typically, all the local churches participate in the prayer service but this year because of social distancing due to the Covid-19, the gathering was held at Timothy Murphy Park across the Schoharie Creek that runs through town from the Catskill Mountains to the Mohawk River. Nearly eighty people attended.
The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyles
Reviewed by Sister Patt Walsh, IHM

Jojo Moyes’ story – The Giver of Stars (a NYTimes best-seller) – is a fictionalized account of the Kentucky Park Horse Librarians, created by Eleanor Roosevelt. These women librarians travelled the Appalachian Mountains on horseback from 1935 to 1943. For more than twenty years I’ve developed a great relationship with the public library and I quite like thinking of the librarians there as “Givers of Stars.”

This is the story of Alice, trapped in her home in Surrey, England and Bennett Van Cleve from Kentucky. He is attracted by Alice’s beauty. Alice sees Bennett as her “escape from the prison of her home.” Soon married and off to America – accompanied by Bennett’s ever-present father, “Mr. Van Cleve,” a wealthy coal mine owner. Unfortunately, Alice ends up in depression–era Baileysville, trading one prison for another.

Alice attends a town meeting where Mrs. Brady introduces the travelling librarian program and Alice volunteers. Margery O’Hare will be heading up this troop of librarians. The library will be headquartered in Fred Guisler’s barn and stocked with old books donated from across the country. They are soon joined by Beth, who enjoys “sneaking a cigarette,” and Ilse Brady. Ilse is a polio survivor with one leg shorter than the other but, with fancy riding boots, she is able to manage mounting a horse and taking up this task.

Alice, coming from England where horseback riding is common, has the skill but no knowledge of the countryside and the families who live there. Margery begins to mentor her and train her to navigate the hilly mountainside. Alice soon discovers that Margery knows her books, her readers and the kind of material they might enjoy. Alice is amazed at how (mostly) excited the families – children and parents alike – are at their arrival! There are, of course, those families who are wary of this new service, but even they realize the benefit this program will be for their children. Like Alice, the reader is truly amazed at not only the courage of these librarians but also are surprised that women get to leave their traditional roles of managing the household to assume such an independent activity in such a rugged and dangerous location.

The Giver of Stars is also about the relationships between Alice and Bennett which takes place in the Van Cleve family home which seems haunted by the ghost of Bennett’s late mother. Mr. Van Cleve continues to live there and sleeps across the paper-thin hallway (which, of course, has led to the near-sterility of their marriage). It’s also about the romance between Margery and Sven – the leader of the miners – who have been faithful, yet unmarried (given Marge’s violent family experiences) for more than twenty years, and the affection Mr. Guisler has developed with Alice and Mr. Van Cleve’s anger at Alice’s non-traditional life-style.

It’s an insight into the dangerous lives of miners, the hard but often touching lives of the families who inhabit the Appalachian mountainside, and the racism that visits the library when they hire Sophia, who has worked in the “Black Library” in Lexington.

The Giver of Stars begins with a prologue. Read it carefully! It holds the clues to how the seemingly tragic ending will be resolved.

A story of courage and creativity, tragedy and triumph, I definitely recommend this book, but, as a selection of Reese Witherspoon’s (think Oprah) Hello Sunshine book club, it is being turned into a movie. You can wait until then – though movies often don’t do the book justice, so be forewarned! Moyles’ storytelling skills are exceptional!