

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** it is an honor and privilege that the Mayor and City Council have been given this opportunity to pay tribute to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (SSIHM) as they celebrate their 175th anniversary; and
- WHEREAS,** originally founded on November 10, 1845 by Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin and Fr. Louis Florent Gillet; and
- WHEREAS,** Mother Theresa, Charlotte Schaaf and Theresa Renauld became the first members of the new religious community and resided in a log cabin on the banks of the River Raisin; and
- WHEREAS,** In 1846 the Sisters opened the first school in Monroe, St. Mary's Young Ladies Academy, to educate girls in the French community and to serve the needs of the founding Catholic families. College classes were offered at St. Mary College and Academy in 1905; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1920 the IHM Sisters voted for the first time in national and state elections and recently led a community "Race to the Ballot Box" in downtown Monroe to bring awareness to proposed ballot initiatives to suppress voter rights; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1930, IHM staffed 60 parochial schools, 2 boarding schools, instructed 32,000 students with 600 sisters and lay teachers. The IHM's have taught thousands of children, in Monroe, Detroit, and out of state; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHM Monroe campus is a historical site and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Motherhouse was renovated in 2000-2003 into a model of sustainable living using earth-friendly geothermal methods and materials earning National, regional and state awards; and
- WHEREAS,** on May 9, 2012 the IHM & Friends Team held the first ever national Mini-Relay event at a senior-care resident facility for the American Cancer Society in memory of Sister Mary Fran Gilleran and other sisters who lost their battle with cancer; and
- WHEREAS,** the plaque in the front foyer, dating back to the time of its construction during the Great Depression, during the administration of Mother Ruth Hankerd (1930-42) reads: "Home is where each lives for the other and all live for God."; and
- WHEREAS,** our community has been blessed and is a better place to live because of the IHM Sisters presence and participation within our community; and

WHEREAS, the IHM Sisters and their leadership team, through innovate practices, have transformed the Motherhouse to meet their congregational and community needs through establishing a quality health care facility and senior housing apartments within their facility in concert their mission; and

WHEREAS, since their existence the IHM Sisters continue a long history of community involvement and services through their educational services, civic engagement, developmental partnerships, environmental programming, hosting community events and addressing social justice issues for the betterment of all; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2021 more than 600 sisters and associates from the three branches of the SSIHM gathered virtually to recognize their shared roots and to celebrate the SSIHM's 175th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, 175 years after its founding, their mission statement "*Urged by the love of God, we choose to work with others to build a culture of peace and right relationship among ourselves, with the Church and with the whole Earth community*" continues to guide its Sisters; and

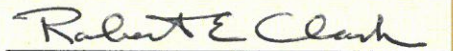
WHEREAS, the City of Monroe is extremely proud and honored to share in this celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert E. Clark, Mayor of the City of Monroe, with the full support of City Council, do hereby proclaim September 12, 2021, as

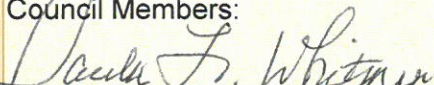
"SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY DAY"

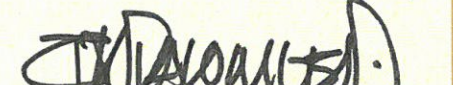
in Monroe, and we hereby extend to them our heartiest congratulations and best wishes on their 175th anniversary.

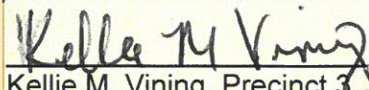
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the City of Monroe to be affixed this 7th day of September 2021.

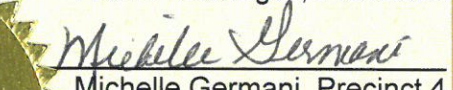

Robert E. Clark, Mayor

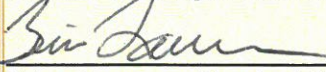
Council Members:

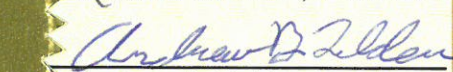

Paula L. Whitman, Precinct 1


John Iacoangeli, Precinct 2


Kellie M. Vining, Precinct 3


Michelle Germani, Precinct 4


Brian Lamour, Precinct 5


Andrew B. Felder, Precinct 6

