

ihmpact

sisters, servants of the immaculate heart of mary

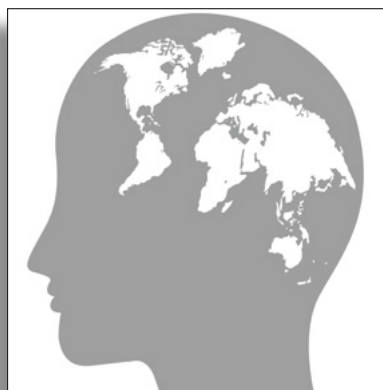
“Coming to know” as a spiritual practice

By Mary Katherine Hamilton, IHM

Within the IHM community is an enduring belief that education, in the broad sense of that word, can be a liberating and empowering process for both personal and social transformation.

The unfolding of the past year and this moment in our nation’s history highlight with stark clarity that we have some learning to do. As we seek racial justice and the healing of our democracy, we want to be ever mindful that our ways of knowing will shape, in no small measure, our quest for “whole-making.”

Knowledge can arise out of curiosity and for its own sake. It can be sought and be applied for practical purposes as well as for power and control. When we are honest with ourselves, we recognize ways of knowing that allow us to remain at arm’s distance from a reality to be known; ways in which we know the “other” by means of projection or through the limits of our own frames of knowing. Not all forms of education are liberating; not all ways of knowing are transformative.



Knowledge that is transformative begins in an encounter in which the knower and the known come in their own truth – truth each shares and to which each remains open to receive from the other. Such knowing in truth forges a relationship with someone or something other than oneself, allowing that relationship to challenge, change and even, at times, transform us as true relationships do.

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Marygrove Conservancy

Racheal Allen, Chief Operating Officer
Marygrove Conservancy



Twenty years ago, I entered Marygrove College as a scholarship student in the Honors Program. As the first in my family to go to college, I took three city busses each way from the east side of Detroit.

I was a teenage mother supporting myself through a series of work-study positions on campus. Awed by the beautiful, lush greenery and the gothic-style architecture, I was exuberant, intimidated and inspired all at the same time.

Now as I drive through the campus gates each day, I still feel all those emotions. As the founding Chief Operating Officer for Marygrove Conservancy, I have the privilege of overseeing daily campus operations, programs and external engagement. When I walk the halls these days and see the changing shape of the buildings, I am reminded of the passionate debates in philosophy or literature, the lifelong friendships that were forged and the memories made.

Many things are different on campus and yet somehow, many things remain the same. History meets innovation as campus buildings are renovated and new structures welcome the youngest students in Marygrove's almost 100-year history. As old classrooms make way for nonprofits and community-based organizations, there is excitement that is palpable. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of Marygrove's next chapter.

Guided by mission

By Marianne Gaynor, IHM, IHM Leadership Council

Over the past 50 years, the IHM community has made significant decisions about where we minister in educational settings. Our mission has guided our choices.

In 1970, Michigan's Proposal C provided a pivotal moment, prohibiting public aid to nonpublic schools and students. As a result of Proposal C, 40 schools in which IHMs ministered closed during the next 25 years.

Today we continue our sponsorship of Marian High School, which began in 1959.

Since 2008, we have co-sponsored Detroit Cristo Rey High School in southwest Detroit with the Basilian Fathers. Most recently, with the closing of Marygrove College, we entered into a relationship with five partners to create the Marygrove Conservancy, reimagining the possibilities for a strong educational presence on the Detroit campus.

Each of these situations has called the IHM community to look to the future and refocus and broaden our educational lens to respond to the needs of the times.



Remote learning for those “on the margins”

By Agnes Anderson, IHM

News reports regarding the difficulties of remote learning abound during this time of pandemic. My experience as a tutor at All Saints Literacy Center (for adults, in southwest Detroit), bears these out and has brought me to the realization that people of color are disproportionately affected, “living on the margins.”

Many of these people are the poor, the essential workers in

retail; hospitals and nursing homes; restaurants; and local manufacturing, who juggle their fears of staying on the job to support their families with the possibility of exposure to the virus and bringing it home to loved ones.

They tend not to be able to own the technology needed for virtual learning and even when the center supplies it to them, their inexperience with it makes for struggle in its use.



with English. They may also live in fear of separation when there is a mix of documented and undocumented immigration status among family members.

I yearn for the day when we can return to face-to-face learning!

The School at Marygrove (TSM)

By Michelle White, Principal

Founded in 2019, The School at Marygrove is unlike any other school in the city of Detroit, and perhaps the world. TSM has a unique mission “to develop critical thinkers and community-minded citizens who have the skills and knowledge to be makers and leaders in the 21st century.”

Through central themes of social justice and design thinking, our students are being educated about the issues that plague our community and are becoming well-equipped to enact plans of action. Teachers



readily incorporate principles of equity and justice along with current issues into their lessons, providing space for students to share their insights while making academic connections.

As the proud leader of this school, I am consistently awed by the commitment of our staff, the leadership of our students and the support of our network of partners. Together, we are building the school that we need for the times in which we are living, and for the future we desire.

As I reflect on my sense of and feelings about the current reality of the 53 acres that make up the Marygrove campus, there are two words that come to mind — change and continuity.

The change is obvious in the absence of college-level students and faculty. Continuity is not so visible, yet clearly present in the connection to the community and the commitment to sustainability and preservation. Embedded in the thinking and planning by the Conservancy Board of Directors is the expectation that the legacy of the college will not be lost, nor will the new programs that emerge diverge from the core beliefs and values of the founders.

The challenges are many. Preserving the historical architecture and



Marygrove Campus:

meeting the needs of modern-day users is a balancing act and financially difficult. Questions emerge, such as should the fence be removed to give a more open and welcoming appearance? Are there legacy programs related to the community (Contemporary American Author's Lecture Series, the Institute for Detroit Studies and the Institute for Arts Infused Education) that should be sustained? What role, if any, should the alumni play in moving programs forward and helping to support the new direction? What will be the nature of community partnerships that can meet the needs of various constituencies, and who should be involved? These and other questions must be addressed to ensure that the campus continues to evolve into

By Glenda Price, PhD

the kind of community resource that it can be. Today's political reality cannot be separated from the work that must be done on the campus. The old notion that "They who have the gold, make the rules" is no longer acceptable. Including a wide array of voices in the conversation about the future is essential. Inclusion is necessary, yet there is always the potential that the processes of consensus-building will take so long that nothing gets accomplished. We cannot let that happen. Creating a promising future for the people in the community is a goal that we must keep before us with any programs that are initiated.

The Marygrove campus and its surrounding area are a microcosm of the city. Detroit is changing in its ethnic and racial makeup and its socioeconomic status. While it is still a predominately African American city, how do we ensure that the campus welcomes newcomers at the same time that it recognizes the needs, challenges and opportunities for the people who have been in the community for generations? What role should the campus play in meeting the needs of the people moving into the renovated housing in the neighborhood?



current reality

Upon learning of the decision to close the college, I was initially disappointed and angry.

The college had an important history. How was it possible to ignore more than 90 years of transformative work in the city of Detroit? However, over time I have come to realize that there are many ways to fulfill a vision. The vision of educating a community of people to take their rightful place in leadership and mutual support. The vision of a community that valued the arts, understood the impact of beautiful surrounding on the people occupying the space. The vision of a campus that would change as new and different needs emerged.

These recent changes are continuous, with the many creative improvements that have taken place over the years. Our current reality is a challenge to live up to the vision of a place where everyone is welcome and growth is possible.

A dream come true

By Barbara G. Stanbridge, IHM

IHM Sisters partnering with the Basilian priests sponsor a unique school in Detroit. Detroit Cristo Rey High School is one of more than 35 schools in a nationwide network. Students pay for their education by working one day a week. In so doing, we recognize that many high-potential urban kids do not have the resources to go to any of the remaining Catholic high schools in the Detroit area. Cristo Rey offers many who are first in their family to graduate from high school the preparation necessary to go to college.

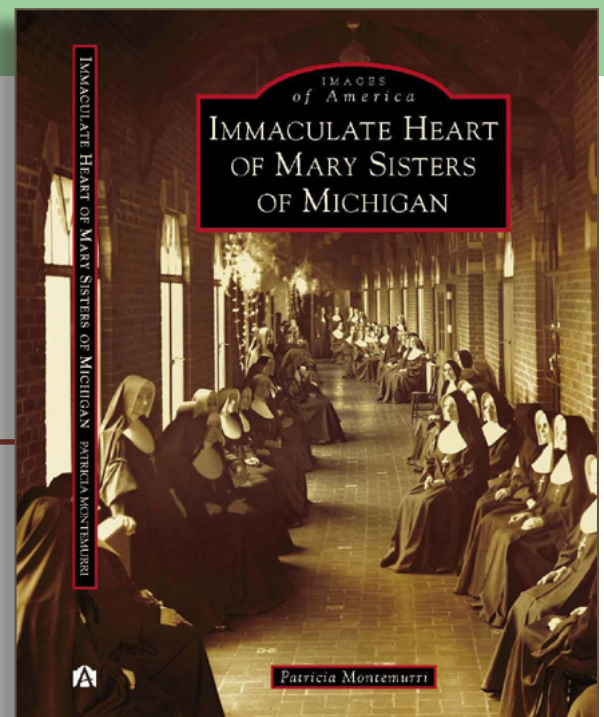


Opening in 2008, the school will soon graduate its 10th class; every student has been accepted into college, putting it far above even the best urban schools in college acceptance rates. DCR students are mostly Hispanic and African American and represent our belief that education is the best way to ensure a path out of poverty and into leadership for the future of the planet.

Situated on the corner of Vernor and Junction in the old Holy Redeemer High School, it stands as a testament to the faith of the IHM Sisters who taught every ethnic group that made their way to America for a better life.

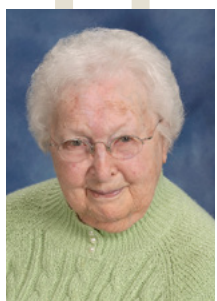
175th anniversary book available to order

2020 marked 175 years since the IHM Sisters were founded. Award-winning journalist Patricia Montemurri researched and wrote *Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of Michigan*, highlighting the history and accomplishments of the IHM Sisters since 1845. Full of both archival and modern photos, the book is published by Arcadia Press. Order online at bit.ly/IHMbook — \$22.25, which includes tax and shipping.



(Nov. 1, 2020 — Jan. 31, 2021)

In memoriam



Dolora Neumaier,
IHM
June 29, 1917 -
Jan. 20, 2021
<https://bit.ly/3olyjuN>



Margaret
(James Agnes)
McGinley, IHM
Sept. 28, 1931 -
Jan. 12, 2021
<https://bit.ly/2MLIUb6>



Gloria Flucke,
IHM Associate
Oct. 7, 1942 -
Dec. 30, 2020
<https://bit.ly/3thAXLK>



Mary (Mary
Immaculate)
McDevitt, IHM
April 1, 1935 -
Dec. 22, 2020
<https://bit.ly/3alT2zH>



Carolyn (Alicia)
Kerwin, IHM
June 17, 1928 -
Nov. 30, 2020
<https://bit.ly/2YzvdPj>



Virginia (Marie
Amata) Celmer,
IHM
June 26, 1945 -
Nov. 26, 2020
<https://bit.ly/3rbJZYL>



Beverly (Rosalita)
Hindson, IHM
July 28, 1947 -
Nov. 21, 2020
<https://bit.ly/3anrdXD>

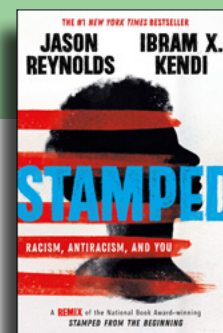


Janice Hinsdale,
IHM Associate
Sept. 8, 1923 -
Nov. 9, 2020
<https://bit.ly/3j66Qll>

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You

Reviewed by Jasmine Kendrick, Admissions Officer, Detroit Cristo Rey High School

Racism. A repugnant word that many of us try to avoid. However, avoidance does not eradicate its existence or relinquish the pain that those on the receiving end have endured and continue to experience now. If anything, its evolution has caused it to become stealth-like, cunning in its delivery and sneaky in its actions. Racism has plagued our country for years and rears its head at every opportunity. Thankfully, education is key and the ability to look past privilege, denial and guilt is the beginning of what this amazing work calls antiracism: the complete and utter condemnation of ideals that do not promote the empowerment of all.



By Jason Reynolds
and Ibram X. Kendi

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You creates a concise, to-the-point work detailing the atrocities that have kept the racist agenda of America moving and steadfast since the country's inception. Beginning with the early years of colonization to the fervent cries of the Civil Rights Movement to the present day of Black Lives Matter, Jason Reynolds takes a no-holds-barred approach to the flames that have kept racist ideas alive for centuries.

To encounter this work should bring forth anger and the momentum to fight against the inhumane treatment of our brothers and sisters. As a Black woman, a witness and, much to my dismay, an active participant on the receiving end of said treatment, I felt anger, frustration, sadness, fear, intimidation, confusion ... and hope.



**Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary**

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Our spiritual heritage awakens us to this way of knowing, grounding it in an experience of being known by the love that created and sustains us, known as a member of the community of life in which everyone and everything is interconnected. Pope Francis, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, speaks of this encounter with God's love as one in which "we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption ... when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

To learn deeply is to face transformation. To know in truth is to enter into relationships requiring vulnerability to truth forged in communion with the other(s). Our search for truth as a way of knowing becomes a quest for community. Our goal in this way of knowing is healing, reconciliation, whole-making for ourselves, our nation, our world.

One of the invitations of this moment may be to approach our way of knowing as a spiritual practice.

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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.

—IHM Mission Statement

MOVING?

Contact us with your ID# (found above your name on the mailing label) at:
734-240-9860 **or** develop@ihmsisters.org.