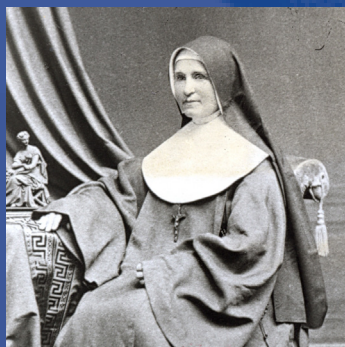


# A BOOK OF DAYS

of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan



In commemoration of the  
175TH ANNIVERSARY  
of the IHM Congregation

**A Book of Days  
of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Compilation and Editing  
IHM Archives Staff  
Archivist: Jennifer Meacham  
Archives Assistants: Diann Cousino, IHM, and Deborah Saul

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

**CSJ** Sisters of St. Joseph  
**CSsR** Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists)  
**IHM** Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
**OSB** Order of St. Benedict  
**OSF** Order of St. Francis of Assisi  
**SJ** Society of Jesus (Jesuits)  
**SNDdeN** Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur  
**SSJ** St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart (Josephites)

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Monroe, Michigan

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Unless otherwise noted, all references to “Sister” refer to a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan

## FOREWORD

### Joan Glisky, IHM

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Such a small thing to do – to find a deed a day revealing IHMs at work among God’s people. Well, maybe the task was not so small. The team spent many months poring over 175 years of Archives abundance, garnering deeds great and small from the records that celebrate IHMs serving God’s Good News around the globe.

We offer deep gratitude for the Archives team. They are truly a remarkable trio: Archivist Jennifer Meacham with Archives Assistants Diann Cousino, IHM, and Deborah Saul. We are indebted as well to a long line of chroniclers (beginning with Mother Theresa Maxis), Congregational and Mission Archivists, community historians, and sisters writing their own accounts over the years.

This collection is moving. It stirs memories, whets the reader’s appetite, sets one restoring forgotten gaps. Here we muse on traditions being shaped and re-shaped in response to the signs of the times. This collection calms panic. If three women of faith dared to initiate this path of so many memorable deeds, inspiring others’ support, moving us forward, what is the call of faith for us today? This document grounds our hopes. Here are revelations of quiet heroes with ever-enlarging goals and widening horizons, celebrating both simple and substantive achievements. It is a tribute to solidarity in community. Our story witnesses to an active community. “Practical activists” some described us, even while we knew ourselves always grounded in contemplation.

May this document benefit IHM Sisters and Associates, seekers young and old, discerners, co-laborers and those we serve as well. In this publication we discover women with feminist awareness in a changing American culture. We chose no such description, of course, in 1845, but we claimed our identity early as innovators, administrators, visionaries and doers. From inception we became educators, sought justice for girls, expanded our areas of ministry, and changed with the times.

We have served in so many worthy ministries – and still do. We are so proud to be reminded. And we draw from this past to move forward.

Recently, winning teams from St. Mary Catholic Central (SMCC), one of our sponsored schools, joined us at Sunday Mass. Some students wore shirts bearing their team numbers while others wore sweaters boldly proclaiming their direction: “Finish the Fight.” I thought, that’s the message flowing out of our yesterdays. We witnessed our forebears everywhere looking ahead. We, too, are called to look to our future, to keep exploring our world as women of faith in IHM community and in the wider earth community embraced by God. St. Paul wrote that message to the early believers when in a different era he said, “This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it.” (Eph. 5:16) Let us redeem the times.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This work was inspired by those who fill its pages, whether named or unnamed, and was made possible by the IHM Sisters of Monroe and their remarkable, meaningful and impactful lives. I thank those who lived this fascinating history as well as those who cared enough to document and preserve it for 175 years.

Thanks go to my team of readers for the time and feedback they provided: Sisters Anne Crane and Joyce Durosko for kindly and gently advising on our incredibly rough first draft; IHM Communications Director Molly Hunt whose command of the language and style befitting an IHM publication makes her utterly irreplaceable; Marilyn LaBoe for allowing us to contact her out of the blue to get the perspective of a reader outside the community; my husband, Michael Barnes, without whom I would never have thought of creating a Book of Days, and for not caring that I stole the idea from him; Archives volunteer Marge McBee for being so excited about all the IHM history she learned, and finally my predecessor as IHM Archivist, Donna Westley, who not only provided valuable and spot-on advice for this project, but has generously done so since the day I arrived at the Motherhouse.

Many thanks to IHM Mission Councilor Sister Ellen Rinke for her support and encouragement throughout the many phases of this process, and to Suzanne Nolan Wisler of The Monroe News for researching and fact-checking numerous events to help us ensure we got it right.

And, finally, I must thank my team – Archives Assistants Deborah Saul and Sister Diann Cousino. This dynamic duo and I spent an entire year scouring chronicles, newsletters, clippings, minutes and official records, and learned more than we ever imagined we would. Thank you both for your dedication to this and every project, and for never stopping until we found the answer! Special thanks to Deb for the hours spent searching out interesting photos and for the gift of your knowledge of all things Monroe.

And to Diann, you have my gratitude for your thoroughness and for the body of knowledge you already had on day one of this project. Your love of IHM history moved us forward, and your inspired generosity made the publication of this book a reality.

Jennifer Meacham  
IHM Archivist

**This book is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Beatrice C. Cousino.**

# JANUARY

## January

**1 1864** A group of 160 hungry soldiers on leave from the 7th Michigan Infantry arrive in Monroe. At the request of the Ladies' Aid Society, IHM Sisters reconstruct the tattered remains of their Regiment flag.

**1981** In the largest farm real estate sale in Monroe County history, the old 952-acre St. Mary Farms — off N. Custer Road, west of the City of Monroe — is sold for \$2,332,400.

**2 1933** Margaret Sullivan receives the habit and the religious name Malachy. Over the next decade, her four younger sisters also join the IHM congregation. The rest of the "Five Sullivans" include Angela, Genevieve, Marie Sylvia and Janet.

**3 1864** IHM Sisters open a free school for the poor in downtown Detroit at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

**4 1971** As part of a movement of charismatic renewal led by Sister Cyprian Maurer in Monroe, Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, two Protestant ministers, and a group of 30 sisters and lay people gather at the Motherhouse to experience physical, psychological and spiritual healing through communal prayer.

**5 1975** Sister Agnes Leo Nesbit turns over the first shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony



for Marian Place, a senior citizen housing complex funded by the Detroit Archdiocesan William A. Ryan Fund and located on W. Front Street in Monroe.

*Fr. Hugo Noetzel and Sr. Agnes Leo Nesbit*

## January

**6 1980** Sister Marie André Walsh is sent to American and Western Samoa by St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas to help Cardinal Pio Taofinu'u find ways to meet the educational needs of Samoan schoolchildren.

**7 2020** An article in *Time* magazine, "Our Work is Helping People Find Happiness: Meet the Leftist Nuns Helping Migrants at the U.S.-Mexico Border," highlights the efforts and dedication of many religious sisters, including IHM Sisters Maria Antonia Aranda Diaz and Gloria Rivera.

**8 1979** The organ from the Hall of the Divine Child, a Monroe boarding school for boys, is sold to St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberty Corners, Mich.

**9 1923** Five IHM Sisters living in the St. Charles Convent in Newport, Mich., are awakened by the smell of smoke in the early morning hours. No one is injured, but despite the efforts of parishioners and their pails of water, the adjoining school building is completely destroyed by fire.

**10 2001** After months of preparation and the relocation of residents and offices to St. Mary Center, the former St. Mary Academy, mass demolition begins on the interior of the Monroe Motherhouse.

**11 2007** IHMs gather in downtown Monroe for a "Surge in Peace, Not Troops" vigil as part of a national day of protest of President George W. Bush's plan to send an additional 21,500 combat troops to Iraq.

# January

## January

**12** **1997** About 1,000 people, including family members and friends, attend a memorial in the Motherhouse Chapel to honor the victims of the crash of Comair Flight 3272 three days earlier in a field in Raisinville Township. Police officers, grief counselors, clerics and the mayor attend.

**13** **1959** In response to a student petition to revoke a long-standing ban, Marygrove College President Sister Honora Jack announces that smoking is now permitted in restricted areas of campus.

**14** **1892** Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin, co-founder of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, dies at the Motherhouse of the IHM Sisters of West Chester, Pa., at the age of 81.

**1992** Representatives from the three IHM congregations (Monroe, Immaculata, Pa., and Scranton, Pa.) gather at the Immaculata congregational cemetery to observe the 100th anniversary of the death of Mother Theresa Maxis.

**15** **1846** The first three members of the IHM congregation (then known as the Sisters of Providence), Sisters Theresa Maxis, Ann Shaaf and Celestine Renauld, open the Young Ladies' Academy on the River Raisin in Monroe, with 40 day pupils and four boarders.

**1975** Mother Margaret Brennan and the IHM Executive Board inform the IHM community that Jubilees are now to be counted from the date of the sister's reception into the congregation rather than the date of her first profession of vows.

## January

**16** **1968** Sister Mary Dominic (Josephine) Sferrella begins her duties as principal of St. Boniface School in Detroit dressed in one of the new, modified IHM habits — giving the students a preview of what other sisters might wear in the near future.



*Sr. Josephine Sferrella*

**17** **2016** The Health Care Staff of IHM Senior Living Community is recognized with a congratulatory notice in *The Monroe News* after receiving a perfect review from the State of Michigan for the third time in five years.

**18** **1993** In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, IHM Sisters hold a Prayer for Peace in the Middle East demonstration at the Custer Statue in Monroe. Sister Marjorie Polys reads a statement urging President-elect Bill Clinton to use "dialogue and persuasion instead of bombs and missiles."

**19** **1994** Participants of the 1993-94 IHM Chapter of Affairs unanimously approve an Enactment on Eco-Justice wherein the participants "commit themselves and call the IHM congregation to continue to develop and act out of an ecological consciousness, individually and corporately."



## January

**20** **1924** The nine IHM Sisters assigned to St. Mary Parish in Lorain, Ohio, attend the blessing of their new Academy by the bishop of Cleveland, Joseph Schrembs. Five months later a tornado would damage the new school and destroy the church built in 1879.

**21** **1970** The Marygrove Social Science faculty and the Institute for Continuing Education of the Archdiocese of Detroit co-sponsor a lecture by Brazilian Archbishop and friend to the IHM congregation, Dom Helder Câmara, "Man Against Misery."

**22** **1981** Members of the St. Mary Academy student council tie yellow ribbons around trees in front of the school. They are to remain on the trees until the 52 Americans, just released after 444 days as hostages in Iran, safely reach the United States.

**23** **2013** IHM President Sister Mary Jane Herb and Kurt Darrow, president and CEO of La-Z-Boy Inc., sign the closing documents for the sale of 120 acres of property behind the Motherhouse to La-Z-Boy for the company's new world headquarters.

**24** **1990** Sister Elizabeth Walters begins serving a six-month sentence for trespassing as a result of a Sept. 1989 protest at Wurtsmith Strategic Air Command Base in Oscoda, Mich.

**25** **2019** Nearly 400 boxes of historical documents, photographs, and artifacts are transferred from the library of Marygrove College in Detroit to the IHM Archives in Monroe.

**26** **2013** The Motherhouse hosts a screening of *Band of Sisters*, a documentary by filmmaker Mary Fishman partially funded by an IHM ministry grant. It details the journey of Catholic women religious in the U.S.

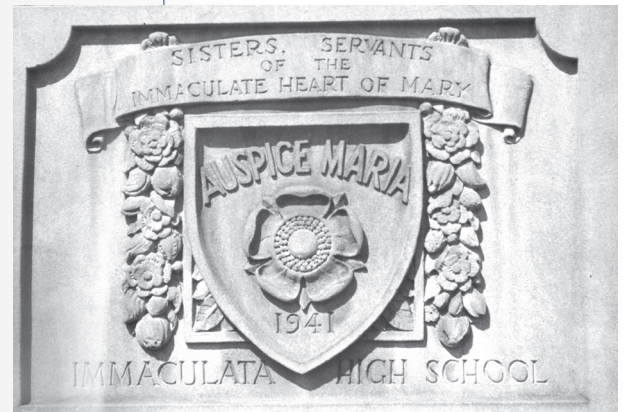
## January

**27** **1848** Rev. Francis Poilvache, who along with fellow Redemptorist priest Rev. Louis Florent Gillet had established a ministry in Monroe just three years before, dies within hours of contracting spotted fever.

**28** **1983** The *Michigan Catholic* publishes an announcement that IHM sponsored Immaculata High School in Detroit is to close at the end of the school year.

**29** **1868** IHM Sisters Ignatia Doyle, Clara Leib and Zita McCloskey establish a mission at St. Patrick Parish in Carleton, Mich., a town then known as Athlone.

**30** **1941** Ground is broken for an all-girls secondary school on the grounds of Marygrove College in Detroit. Classes at Immaculata High begin on Sept. 8 with an enrollment of 529 students.



*Cornerstone of Immaculata High School*

**31** **1933** Per the mission chronicles of Holy Redeemer in Detroit, the sisters receive "an up-to-date Radio set" in their convent. The gift of Rev. Joseph Elenz, CSSR, is a token of gratitude for the sisters' contributions to the parish centennial celebrations the previous fall.

# FEBRUARY

## February

**1 1889** The Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome approves the Holy Rule and Constitutions of the SSIHM.

**2005** Learning the school will soon close, Rep. Danny K. Davis (D) of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois offers thanks to Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester for more than 40 years of academic excellence and service. His statement on the floor of the U.S. House is a permanent part of the Congressional Record.

**2 1853** For the first time, the habit is given to more than one novice on the same day. Mary Ann Walter, Ann Walker and Isabella Renauld take the names Aloysius, Ignatius and Frances, respectively.

**3 1949** Former Empress Zita, widow of Charles, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary and Bohemia, speaks to St. Mary Academy students and collects clothing donations for the war victims of Austria.



*Former Empress Zita of Austria (left) and Mother Teresa McGivney*

**4 1932** In one of her many circular letters to the congregation, IHM General Superior Mother Ruth Hankerd congratulates the sisters on the results of Christmas card sales that raised more than \$4,300 for the fund to pay off the debt from the new Motherhouse and Academy.

## February

**5 1972** Sister Ruth (Benedine) Callahan becomes the first IHM Sister to be buried in secular clothing.

**6 1860** Though their commitment to formal education remains, IHM director and superior Rev. Edward Joos has the congregation legally incorporated as a society providing for abandoned children.

**7 1973** Dr. and Mrs. William Grimaudo, friends of Sister Rita Anne Price, donate the cost of padding the wooden kneelers in the Motherhouse Chapel.

**8 1887** Melting ice jams on the River Raisin cause a deep, strong current of water to flow through the basement of the Old Motherhouse.

**9 1891** Forty-five years after leaving Monroe, Louis Florent Gillet — now Fr. Marie Celestin, a Cistercian monk in Hautecombe, France — learns the congregation he co-founded has survived and flourished.

**1984** Sister Harriet Fitzmaurice and Rev. Michael Verschaeve, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Monroe, launch the St. Joseph Food Closet to assist the homeless and indigent members of the community.

**10 1932** Sister Rosalita Kelly and a companion arrive at St. Mary Parish in Marshall, Mich., to take their pick of books from Rev. George Clarkson's personal collection to be used at the Marygrove College Library.

**1959** The mission chronicles for St. John School in Jackson, Mich., note that the inclement weather "closed schools for days and gave the faculty a free day on Mardi Gras! No complaints were voiced."



## February

**11 1889** Sister Theresa Persyn, who introduced the St. Andre System of Education to the IHM congregation, celebrates her Golden Jubilee. She had been a member of the Sisters of Charity in Belgium for 23 years before she became an IHM in 1862.

**12 1931** Dom Carlos Verbeke, OSB, who had received a gift of \$2,000 from Mother Domitilla Donohue to build a chapel in the Caribbean nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, visits the students of St. Mary Academy and Marygrove College. Upon his return home he renames his missionary chapel "Little Marygrove."

**13 1890** Thirty years after its approval as a corporation providing for abandoned children, the congregation applies for and is granted a charter as an educational institution.

**14 1939** The first cement is poured to begin construction of the new Motherhouse Chapel. Within a few weeks, the first of the 240,000 bricks needed arrive in Monroe.

**15 1964** Sister Patrick Ellen (Mary Jo) Maher is appointed congregational archivist, succeeding Sister Rosalita Kelly who died unexpectedly on Jan. 26.

**16 1972** Sister Josephine Hoey dies at the age of 102, after 80 years as an IHM. She is the last of the four Hoey sisters (along with Sisters Benedicta, Vincent and Felicitas) who devoted a total of 213 years of service to the IHM community.



*Sister Josephine Hoey in 1967*

## February

**17 1963** Sister Claudia Carlen, Library Director, and Sister Mary Emil Penet, College President, lead Archbishop John Dearden on a private tour of the brand new addition to the Marygrove College Library.

**18 1919** The Monroe City Clerk sends his secretary to the IHM Motherhouse to register sisters to vote for the first time. They and other women in Michigan gained the right to vote for statewide offices through a state constitutional amendment approved in 1918.

**19 1863** Three IHM Sisters arrive in the city of Adrian, Mich., to take charge of the schools in the parish of St. Mary of Good Counsel.

**20 2014** Sister Annette St-Amour joins the pastoral team of Solidarity with South Sudan in the capital city of Juba. The group's aim is to provide education, care and support for the people of South Sudan in the midst of civil conflict and a growing humanitarian crisis.

**21 1971** A group of 40 IHM Sisters attend the performance of a Shakespearean Quartet and a Modern Jazz Quartet from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

**22 2007** The God Works! soup kitchen at Monroe's St. Joseph Parish marks its first year. IHM Sisters serve as volunteers and Sister Mary Jo Maher coordinates a monthly collection at the Motherhouse to support their efforts, an endeavor that continues to this day.

# February

## February

**23 1994** IHM Sisters are among a group of 500 concerned citizens who attend a Detroit Edison public information meeting to protest Edison's plan to discharge 532,000 gallons of "slightly radioactive" waste water from its Monroe-based Fermi II nuclear power plant into Lake Erie.

**24 1968** After a community-wide vote, IHM Sisters overwhelmingly approve new guidelines for the choice of habit, including the traditional long or modified shorter dress.

**25 1855** Sister Aloysius Walter, whose native language was German, begins regular Sunday instruction for the children of Monroe's German Catholic Church, St. Michael the Archangel.



*Sister Aloysius Walter*

## February

**26 1999** A two-day workshop opens at the Monroe Motherhouse featuring Barbara Fiand, SNDdeN, author of a dozen books on holistic spirituality and faith including *Wrestling with God: Religious Life in Search of its Soul* and *Living the Vision: Religious Vows in an Age of Change*.

**27 1856** The first death of an IHM, Sister Ignatius Walker, half-sister of Mother Mary Joseph Walker.

**1985** Sister Julie Slowik is welcomed by two American Franciscan priests as she begins her ministry in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

**28 1947** IHM General Superior Mother Teresa McGivney informs the sisters that carillon bells will be installed in the St. Mary Academy tower. They are a gift of Mr. Harry Nordhouse, father of Sister Beata Marie (Jane) and of Mary Margaret, who died in her senior year at the Academy.

**29 1976** At the Monroe Motherhouse, about 60 IHM Sisters attend the workshop "Apostolic Spirituality" led by Australian Redemptorist priest Rev. Kevin O'Shea, CSsR.

# MARCH

## March

1

1922

Under the leadership of Mother Domitilla Donohue, and at the urging of Bishop Michael Gallagher to build their college in Detroit, the IHM congregation purchases 80 acres of land on the outskirts of the city, the future site of Marygrove College.

1967

Per a new permission granted by Vatican II, a religious sister may dispose of an inheritance as she chooses during her lifetime. As the first IHM to take advantage of this, Sister Mary Theodore Digneit signs over her \$114,000 patrimony to the congregation. Her gift makes possible the purchase of Crawfton Inn in Kingsville, Ontario, and provides for its future maintenance.

2

2008

Today Show environmental reporter Ann Thompson interviews Sister Janet Ryan for a story on the Motherhouse renovation and the congregation's commitment to sustainability.

3

1966

The *Michigan Catholic* covers the first meeting of the new Detroit Archdiocesan School Board under the leadership of IHM Sister Thomas Aquinas Walmsley.

4

1997

IHM President Sister Mary McCann thanks Spiro Micallef, longtime carpenter for the IHMs, for the donation to the IHM Archives of Sister Miriam Raymo's rosary and a gold pocketwatch that belonged to her father. Sister Miriam had presented them to Spiro shortly before her death in 1965.

5

1987

With the assurance that the musical comedy *Nonsense* is "entertaining without being offensive" (according to the school chronicler), the Sisters at St. Mary of Redford, Detroit, enjoy the show at the Birmingham Theater.

6

1963

IHM General Superior Mother Anna Marie Grix announces to the community that Marygrove College is preparing to offer graduate coursework for the first time.



*Mother Anna Marie Grix*

7

1952

Marygrove College President Sister Honora Jack is the first religious sister to receive the Woman of the Year Award from the Soroptimist Club of Detroit, a branch of an international organization devoted to improving the lives of women and girls.

8

2001

An article by Detroit Free Press religion writer Patricia Montemurri calls attention to the "Contact a Sister or Associate" page on the new IHM Sisters' website. As a result, more than 400 emails, most from former students, arrive in just two months.

# March

## March

**9 1844** Redemptorist priests from Belgium, Louis Florent Gillet and Francis Mathias Poilvache, establish a mission in Monroe in the parish of St. Antoine (renamed St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in December of 1845).

**1965** About 50 Marygrove students, along with Sisters Charlita Brady and Mary Anne (Stanislaus) Huddleston, join an estimated crowd of 4,000 in a march through downtown Detroit to protest the violence against African Americans participating in the Selma to Montgomery marches in Alabama.

**10 1838** Louis Florent Gillet, co-founder of the IHM Congregation, is ordained a Redemptorist priest at Liège (modern day Belgium).

**11 1975** As part of their work with the organization Friends of Children of Vietnam, Sisters Nancy Ayotte and Therese LeBlanc travel to Saigon to take charge of a toddler center in the nearby district of Tu Duc.

**12 1859** Catherine Biry, the last postulant received by Mother Theresa Maxis, enters the IHM congregation.

**13 2004** A rededication ceremony takes place for St. Joseph's Island, on the grounds of the Monroe Motherhouse. The lake surrounding the island was formed when a well-digger hit an underground stream in 1932. This much-needed source of water was named for St. Joseph as it was created on his feast day, March 19.

**14 1968** Sister Gilmory Best is the only woman among the 25 top media specialists in the U.S. invited to attend a Behavioral Science Institute sponsored by the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

## March

**15 2003** Twenty members of the IHM community gather at the Gen. George A. Custer Statue in Monroe to rally for peace and voice their opposition to the impending war in Iraq.

**16 1969** The Golden Jubilee Celebration of the opening of Sacred Heart School in Dearborn features an open house and performance by the school choral group, led by Sister Irene (Marie David) Mogg.

**17 1926** Marygrove College receives accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

**18 1982** IHM Sisters host a GROUNDWORK Regional Nuclear Weapons Freeze Meeting at the Motherhouse to promote educational and organizing efforts in Michigan.

**19 1989** On Palm Sunday, IHM Sisters lead a peaceful protest at Williams International, a company in Walled Lake, Mich., that produces engines for cruise missiles.



*Sister Marge Fogarty at Williams International*



## March

**20 1994** Sister Sandra Schneiders accepts Assumption University's Christian Culture Award Gold Medal while protesters outside the University doors carry signs lamenting "dissent" and "radical feminism."

**21 1913** On a day when the Weather Bureau Office records wind speeds of 85 mph in Toledo and Detroit, the Motherhouse chronicler records that the "cross [atop St. Mary Academy] was wrenched from the main elevation in front ... two of the window panes in Study Hall were blown in fragments through the room but, thanks to a timely kind Providence, although over 100 students were assembled there, not one sustained the slightest injury."

**22 1955** Sister Mary Emil Penet is elected general chair of the Executive Committee of the National Catholic Education Association.

**23 1995** IHM Sisters begin their association with Habitat for Humanity by attending the organization's first exploratory meeting in Monroe.

**24 1966** Mother Anna Marie Grix joins the 21 IHMs of St. Michael School in Flint, Mich., and some 1,500 attendees at the dedication of the new St. Michael Church.

**25 1931** Less than two years after fire destroys the Academy building, ground is broken for a third St. Mary Academy.

**26 1990** A memo from Sister Joyce Durosko announces plans for a Literary and Arts Center (LARC) to be housed in the former St. Mary Academy Library. The specialty bookstore and creative, collaborative space for searchers, dreamers and artists opens in September.

## March

**27 1978** Sister Angela Cerna-Plata, a transfer from a Peruvian religious community, makes her vows as an IHM Sister at Visitation House of Prayer. During her formation years in the 1960s she studied with junior professed sisters on the Monroe campus.



*Sister Anne Marie Hughes (center) with Sister Angela Cerna-Plata in Peru, 1971*

**28 1939** A letter from the Chicago office of Franz Mayer of Munich, Inc. to Sister Miriam Raymo quotes a total cost of \$11,910 for seven sanctuary windows, 12 clerestory windows in the nave, six transept windows and 20 lower nave windows for the new IHM Motherhouse Chapel.

**29 2014** Pastor Heather Boone celebrates the first year of the Oaks of Righteousness Warming Center for the homeless of Monroe with a barbecue and gifts of thanks for the center's volunteers, among them IHM Sisters Anne Wisda, Joan Kusak and Roberta Richmond.

**30 1965** Sisters Shirley Ellis and Beth Reiha share the experiences of their time in Alabama with a crowd at St. Agnes Church in Detroit. They were among a group of about a dozen Detroit priests and women religious who participated in the Selma to Montgomery March the previous week.

**31 1942** Due to St. Mary Academy's riding instructor, Russell Sweeny, being called to military service, the riding school is closed and the 17 horses put up for sale. An auto dealer in Dearborn purchases them in exchange for a new Buick.



# APRIL

# April

**1** **1859** Displeased with her fervent appeals to establish a second eastern mission in the Diocese of Reading, Bishop Peter Paul Lefevere discharges Mother Theresa Maxis from her office as general superior and orders her to depart for the IHM mission in Susquehanna, Pa.

**2** **1986** Actor Donald Sutherland takes up residence in the housekeeper's suite of Detroit's Holy Redeemer Convent. He will spend two months among the 16 IHM Sisters there while starring in the film, *The Rosary Murders*, produced by 1958 Holy Redeemer H.S. graduate Bob Laurel.



*Donald Sutherland with (left to right) Sisters Judith Eliassen, Regina Mary Affholter, and Mary Hope Glinski*

**3** **1972** Sister Mary Frederick Galbraith becomes the first woman elected to City Council in River Rouge, Mich., and the first IHM Sister elected to public office.

**4** **1971** On this Palm Sunday, the first public service is held at Visitation, the IHM House of Prayer located in a former horse barn on the Monroe campus.

**5** **1995** The Silver Heart of Marygrove is presented to IHM President Sister Mary McCann by Marygrove College President John Shay in honor of the congregation's sesquicentennial. The sterling silver heart-shaped box, containing a handwritten list of the 300+ benefactors of the college when it opened in 1927, had been on the altar of Marygrove's Sacred Heart Chapel for decades.

**6** **1959** Msgr. Walter Marron joins IHM Sisters and students from the Hall of the Divine Child and St. Mary Academy to celebrate the opening of the Academy's new auditorium.

**7** **1968** African American students at Marygrove College read from the works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Sunday Mass. Later, the Student Council presents sophomore Faye Kelly with \$50 toward expenses for her trip to Atlanta to attend Dr. King's funeral as the College's representative.

**2016** The IHM Coordinating Council adopts an Inclusive Language Policy for "all IHM common prayer" and commits to "gender-inclusive language when using language for the human person [and] both gender-inclusive and expansive when speaking of God."

**8** **1849** Taking the religious name Mary, Mildred Whipple becomes the first former student of St. Mary Academy to join the IHM congregation.

**9** **1966** IHM Sisters at SS. Peter and Paul School in Ionia, Mich., are presented with a 1966 Dodge station wagon, a gift of the Home and School Council purchased by accumulating some 1,400 books of S&H Green Stamps.

**10** **1987** Via a press release, the IHM Sisters formally endorse "the Sanctuary Movement as a ministry of justice and compassion in response to the needs of refugees fleeing from life-threatening situations in Central America."

**11** **1929** Clara and Henry Ford celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary with a reception, dinner and dance at St. Mary Academy.

## April

**12** **1922** Sisters and students assemble in the auditorium of St. Mary College and Academy to listen to a radio for the very first time. The evening's programs include vocal and instrumental numbers and a sermon of Bishop Michael Gallagher.

**13** **1969** St. Patrick Parish in Carleton, Mich., celebrates 100 years of service given by IHM Sisters with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed by entertainment, gifts, and a buffet supper.



*Sister Melita Lark, who taught at St. Patrick, Carleton, in 1906*

**2019** The Maxis Spirituality Center in Riverview, Mich., hosts an open house to introduce the center and its staff to the public.

**14** **1846** Forty-two-year-old widow Josette Godfroy-Smyth enters the Monroe congregation as its fourth member and takes the religious name Alphonsine. She later serves as general superior from 1849 to 1852.

**15** **2009** Sister Margaret Brennan's memoir, *What Was There for Me Once*, is launched by her publisher Novalis.

**16** **1932** Residents of the old Motherhouse on the River Raisin take their first look at the new finished Motherhouse complex about six blocks west.

## April

**17** **1952** Sister Mary Emil Penet participates in a panel discussion at the National Catholic Education Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Among other things, she proposes that sisters in formation (i.e., novices) wait to begin classroom teaching until the completion of their undergraduate degrees. Sister Mary Emil would become an influential leader in the Sister Formation movement.

**18** **1989** Cardinal Edmund Szoka dedicates St. Mary Catholic Central, a consolidation of St. Mary Academy and Monroe Catholic Central High School.

**19** **1961** Sister Alphonsus Mary Charboneau's choral group of junior professed, novices and postulants present a program for relatives and friends; nearly 1,000 guests are present.

**20** **1969** IHM Sisters begin to receive notices stating they now have the option to change back to their baptismal names.

**1988** Eight members of a Guatemalan refugee family arrive in Monroe, the first of more than 50 families who first went to Ste. Anne Church in Detroit and were then given temporary shelter in the IHM Motherhouse.

**21** **2017** Members of the Detroit 1967 Oral History Project conduct the last of 29 interviews with IHM Sisters who recount their experiences during the violence and unrest in the city of Detroit in July of 1967.

**22** **1971** The Marygrove Board of Trustees approves a recommendation to amend the charter to provide "no limitation on student personnel and that men students of commuter status be admitted in September 1971."

# April

## April

- 23 1929** Construction of the Gillet Memorial Chapel begins in St. Mary Cemetery, the recently acquired parcel of land adjacent to St. Joseph Cemetery in Monroe.
- 1986** The Msgr. Edward Joos Memorial Chapel in St. Joseph Cemetery, encircled by the remains of 64 IHM Sisters, is demolished. Most of its stained glass windows were stolen the year before and the cost of restoration was prohibitive.
- 24 2003** The Motherhouse renovation team receives a Building Award from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.
- 25 1993** At the close of the IHM Governing Board Meeting, members decide to propose a formal congregational stance in opposition to the death penalty.
- 26 1968** Actor Dustin Hoffman and Mary McCarthy, daughter of Sen. Eugene McCarthy, speak at Marygrove College on behalf of McCarthy for President.
- 2013** A ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony is held for the new 518-kilowatt solar panel array on the IHM Campus, part of DTE Energy's Solar Currents pilot program.



*IHM President Sister Mary Jane Herb helps cut the ribbon*

## April

- 27 1968** Sister Jane Mary Howard, Acting President of Marygrove College, outlines for the faculty a plan to award a scholarship to one young woman from each Detroit high school. Remembered as "68 for '68," the program sought to diversify Marygrove's predominantly white student body.
- 28 1992** Parishioners of St. John by the Sea on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, celebrate their new church and express gratitude for the leadership of associate pastor Sister Laetitia Lariviere.
- 29 1949** Sister Isabel Leonard, age 97, becomes the first IHM Sister to celebrate a 75th Anniversary of profession. Three years later she becomes the first to reach the age of 100.
- 30 1999** Sister Andrea Lee is inaugurated as the 10th president of the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn.

# MAY

# May

May

**1 1999** Sisters Joan Glisky and Dorothy McDaniel host an eco-justice retreat day at the Marian Convent in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. The retreat, "With Fido and Leviathan," explores the spiritual interdependence between humans and other living creatures.

**2 1967** The New Catholic Encyclopedia is published and includes articles by six members of the IHM congregation, including two by Sister Claudia Carlen, who also indexed the 15-volume set. The project involved about 520,000 index cards so Sister Claudia sought the aid of Documentation Incorporated, a new company that developed a computer program to automate the process, a first in the world of publishing.



*Sister Claudia Carlen with the New Catholic Encyclopedia*

**1982** A reception is held at Marygrove College to celebrate the publication of Sister Claudia Carlen's Papal Encyclicals. Pres. John Shay proclaims it "The Year of the Library" in Sister Claudia's honor.

**3 2003** The first public tours are held of the newly renovated Motherhouse. In 2003 alone, more than 4,300 visitors learn about the innovations in sustainability and green design found throughout the sisters' home.

May

**4 2002** A plaque that reads, "With heartfelt gratitude and profound respect we recognize the devoted service of the IHM Sisters for more than a century of teaching the children of Holy Redeemer Grade School," is placed at the Detroit school by its Board of Directors.

**5 1960** Sisters and St. Mary Academy students assemble in the auditorium to formally accept the gift of a new projector and thank its donor, Athalie Hough, Class of 1918.

**6 1958** Three groups of singers led by IHM Sisters Alphonsus Mary Charboneau (St. Mary Academy), Grace Maher (Immaculata High School) and Marie Clotilde Schrage (Holy Redeemer), participate in the First Annual Choral Festival presented by the Detroit Archdiocesan Unit of the National Catholic Music Educators Association.

**7 1935** Two historic pear trees, grafts from trees originally planted by Col. Francis Navarre, the first white settler in Monroe, are planted on the Motherhouse campus. The trees are gifts of the Greening Nursery in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**8 1945** In honor of V-E Day, St. Mary Academy students gather to listen to the radio broadcast and offer victory prayers while the boys at the Hall of the Divine Child listen to their school band and sing patriotic songs.

# May

## May

**9 1902** Sister Germaine Sibbald receives a letter of thanks from A.N. Palmer, creator of the famous Palmer Handwriting Method, for the Academy students' penmanship books she sent to him, stating they "contain the finest display it has ever been my pleasure to examine anywhere."

**2012** The IHM Sisters and Friends Relay for Life Team hold a mini-relay inside the Motherhouse, the first in the country inside a residential setting. It is in honor of Sister Mary Fran Gilleran, who died of cancer in 2011.



*Sister Mary Pipsis joins the fight against cancer*

**10 2011** IHM President Sister Mary Fran Gilleran receives the Thomas J. Gumbleton Award "for exceptional service and dedication to Gospel values and to the Catholic Church." The award is presented by Elephants in the Living Room, an organization of priests and laity of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

**11 1974** The IHM Social Action Committee, headed by Sister JoAnn McAnoy, sponsors the Women for Woman Conference at Immaculata High School in Detroit. Topics include women in education, politics, social service and the philosophical roots of anti-feminism.

**12 2016** Sister Mary Jane Herb serves as a U.S. delegate to the annual meeting of the International Union of Superiors General in Rome. She is chosen to be among the sisters given the opportunity to greet Pope Francis after the Papal Audience.

## May

**13 1945** To mark the school's centennial year, more than 500 alumnae, including several members of the Class of 1877, gather for the closing of the three-day St. Mary Academy Alumnae Reunion, the first since Pearl Harbor.

**14 1911** Madame Bernice de Pasquali, principal soprano from New York City's Metropolitan Opera, sings for the sisters and students of St. Mary Academy.

**15 1939** The first issue of *Catholic Women's World* is published. This national magazine created by Marygrove College is the first of its kind in the country.

**16 1998** The first produce and herb gardens are planted at the St. Mary Organic Farm on the campus of the IHM Motherhouse.

**17 1934** Sisters Rosalita Kelly and Vincent de Paul McGivney visit the Motherhouse of the Oblate Sisters of Providence (OSP) in Baltimore. The Oblate's records confirm that Mother Theresa Maxis, IHM, and Mother Theresa Duchemin, OSP, — a woman of African descent — were in fact the same person.

**18 1867** Four IHM Sisters are sent to Detroit to establish St. Anthony orphanage, later known as the St. Francis Home for Boys.

**19 1956** The IHM community sends condolences and a donation to the Grey Nuns of Ottawa, Canada — the community that welcomed Theresa Maxis after the IHM separation a century before — after a jet plane strikes the convent, killing the chaplain and 11 nuns.

**20 1972** Sister Maria Michaela McGee receives a Michigan Governor's Award in recognition of her work as a founder of both the Big Brothers and the Big Sisters of Monroe.



## May

**21 1942** Ninety-one women are awarded bachelor's degrees at the Marygrove College commencement exercises, including Marguerite Jeannette Williams, Marygrove's first African American student.

**2006** A reception is held at the Motherhouse in honor of the retirement of Marygrove's seventh president Glenda Price, the first African American woman to hold that office.

**22 1995** Death of Jerome Vandavelde, IHM Associate and former employee of more than 50 years. At a liturgy in honor of his 90th birthday the previous August, Sister Audrey Cousino related one of his observations about Sisters in the berry patch: "the Postulants ate too much, the Professed talked too much, but the Novices did it just right."

**23 2016** For the second spring in a row, residents release nearly three dozen butterflies raised and hatched on the Motherhouse verandas.

**24 1948** Mother Teresa McGivney announces the names of the sisters who are to go to Puerto Rico to open the first overseas mission: Sisters Mary Matthew Scanlon, Miriam Louise Gramlich, Bridgetta Huot and Mary Benedict Logsdon.

**25 1949** Three newly ordained priests, the Reverends Smith, Klauke and Muir, celebrate Mass in the IHM convent chapel in Monroe. All are former students of IHM Sisters at Sacred Heart School in Dearborn.

**26 1992** The Alonzo Bates Academy's purchase of Immaculata High School is approved by the Detroit School Board.

**27 1948** Mother Teresa McGivney and Sister Mary McGrath become the first IHMs to fly in a plane as they depart Willow Run Airport en route to New York, where they board a ship to England. The trip is a gift from the St. Mary Academy alumnae.

## May

**27 1976** St. Mary Parish in Sandusky Co., Ohio, celebrates the U.S. bicentennial a bit early. Mass includes a special liturgy prepared by grades five and six of St. Mary School, under the direction of Sister Charlotte Walby. The "old-time" entertainments include a Laurel and Hardy film, a picnic lunch, and buggy rides.

**28 1973** The four IHMs missioned to Uganda (Sisters Ellen Balle, Ellen Baker, Marilyn Nadeau and Margaret Lorenger) arrive in Nairobi, Kenya to meet with Sisters Margaret Brennan and Mary Jo Maher to discuss their future. The U.S. government has advised all citizens to leave Uganda due to fear for their safety under Idi Amin; all four sisters choose to stay.

**29 1933** On the evening of Memorial Day, members of the St. Mary Academy Alumnae Association close out their annual reunion weekend with an ice cream social on the grounds of the old convent.

**30 1980** Sister Mary Laubacher is feted with a surprise liturgy, dinner and official commendation on her retirement as assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Lansing. Sister Mary supervised 32 elementary schools and five high schools from 1974 to 1980.

**31 1960** Archbishop John Dearden leads the formal dedication of the new Marian High School in Birmingham, Mich.

**1987** After 142 years educating young women in Monroe, St. Mary Academy holds its final commencement ceremonies.



*Sister Mary McGrath (left) and Mother Teresa McGivney*

# JUNE

# June

## June

- 1 2006** Sister Lisandra Pedraza becomes the 80th and most recent IHM to earn a doctorate, a Ph.D. from Ohio State University.



*Sister Lisandra Pedraza, Ph.D.*

- 2 1962** Numerous IHM Sisters attend the first Mass of the newly ordained Rev. (later Bishop) Kenneth Untener, brother of Sister Mary Ann (Marie Andrew) Untener.

- 3 1929** The second St. Mary Academy, built in 1905 and located on the site of the current St. Mary Catholic Central High School, is destroyed by fire.

- 1963** The IHM Sisters and Catholics everywhere mourn the death of Pope John XXIII, the beloved pontiff who had convened the Second Vatican Council eight months prior. The chronicles of St. Mary of Redford School in Detroit note the many tributes on television that evening: "Every program seems to proclaim his goodness and his peace. Peace to the world."

- 4 1910** While in Monroe to unveil the new statue of Gen. George Armstrong Custer, President William Howard Taft visits St. Mary College and Academy. He is joined by Detroit Bishop John Foley, Michigan Gov. William Warner and well-known local poet Will Carleton.

- 1964** Two hundred and sixty-eight young women receive diplomas at the first graduation ceremonies at Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, Ill.

## June

- 5 1988** Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central, formed when St. Mary Academy merged with Monroe Catholic Central High School, awards diplomas to its first graduating class of 179 students.

- 6 1932** IHM Sisters move from the old convent on the River Raisin to the new Motherhouse several blocks west along W. Elm Avenue.

- 2012** Detroit Cristo Rey, a partnership of IHM Sisters and Basilian Fathers, holds its first graduation for 46 students with 100% college acceptance.

- 7 1980** The final commencement exercises are held at the Hall of the Divine Child, closing after 62 years.

- 8 2009** Sister Eva Schoell begins a four-day weaving retreat for Motherhouse residents. Her "Prayer of Weaving Peace" retreats began years earlier at Crawfton in Ontario, Canada, and were attended by dozens of sisters.

- 9 1968** At Marygrove College's commencement exercises, IHM Sister faculty members wear academic hoods for the first time.

- 10 2012** A farewell gathering is held for the Visitation House of Prayer in Monroe, which officially closes two days later.

- 11 2000** The Casavant Frères organ in the Motherhouse Chapel is recognized with a citation from the Organ Historical Society as "an instrument of exceptional historic merit worthy of preservation."

- 12 1952** Wayne University confers an honorary Doctor of Science in Education degree on Sister Honora Jack, president of Marygrove College. She is only the second woman religious in the country to be so honored by a secular university.

## June

- 12 1985** At a protest of U.S. aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, Sister Mary Margaret Davis is arrested at a peaceful sit-in at the Minneapolis office of a U.S. senator along with members of the group Pledge of Resistance. Two years later she joins a group of Adrian Dominican Sisters in Managua, Nicaragua, where she would serve until 1992.



*Sister Mary Margaret Davis in Managua, Nicaragua, 1989*

- 13 1937** Baccalaureate Sunday at St. Mary College coincides with a labor strike by workers from Monroe's Newton Steel Plant. Expecting as many as 100,000 people to gather, the governor asks that no one enter Monroe, while the mayor advises his citizens not to leave the city.

- 14 1922** Sister Mary McGrath, the first IHM to earn a doctorate, is awarded a Ph.D. in psychology from Catholic University of America.

- 2014** Sister Alice Baker joins 100 others in a prayer vigil at the gate of the Michigan Air National Guard base in Battle Creek in protest of the site's recent approval as a drone command center.

- 15 1950** Mother Teresa McGivney's 50th anniversary of her graduation from St. Mary Academy is celebrated with a picnic supper at the Motherhouse.

- 16 1914** Miss Teresa Lorraine Cahn receives the first bachelor of arts degree from St. Mary College in Monroe.

## June

- 16 1999** At the invitation of Rabbi Amy Brodsky of the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies, Sister John Louise Leahy, retired after 40+ years teaching at Marygrove College, discusses art and art therapy on the television program "What's Faith Got To Do With It?"

- 17 1956** For the first time, the young women being received into the IHM Novitiate wear their postulant attire instead of bridal gowns as they are presented with their habits.

- 18 1966** Sister Benedicta (Margaret) Brennan is elected general superior of the IHM congregation.

- 19 1942** IHM Sisters leave St. Joseph School, their first Detroit mission, after 81 years. Among the 10 IHM Sisters on the faculty that last academic year is Sister Hildegard Machris who had taught at the high school since its first classes 48 years earlier.

- 20 1983** Two bronze plaques bearing the names of the 197 IHM Sisters buried in St. Joseph Cemetery are unveiled on the front of the Gillet Memorial Chapel, thus granting all IHMs a place of remembrance within St. Mary Cemetery.

- 1996** The first Royal Blue Classic Golf Outing, benefiting IHM ministries, is held at Whispering Pines Golf Course in Pinckney, Mich.

- 21 1904** Bishop John Foley of Detroit, along with a number of diocesan clergy, lays the cornerstone of the second St. Mary Academy.

# June

## June

**22 1925** Miss Viola Mary Dunn, at the conclusion of her tenth-grade year at St. Mary Academy, enters the Postulate. She will take the religious name Rose Xavier and serve as a member of the IHM congregation for the next 88 years, the longest of anyone in its history.

**1997** After 22 years at Most Holy Trinity Church, Dignity/Detroit, a community of LGBT Catholics, their families and friends, gathers to celebrate its first Mass in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College.

**23 1896** The Golden Jubilee of the IHM congregation is celebrated in conjunction with the commencement ceremony at St. Mary Academy. Many former students attend, along with Bishop Foley of Detroit and another 50 or so priests.

**24 2012** Nuns on the Bus is welcomed by nearly 100 sisters at the Monroe Motherhouse. Their tour includes 10 major cities and was arranged by the NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice to protest proposed federal budget cuts for the poor and needy.

**25 1948** Mother Teresa McGivney and Sister Mary McGrath have a private audience with Pope Pius XII during their visit to Rome.

**26 2017** *Visitation: A Gift and a Mystery* is finalized, chronicling the history of the IHM House of Prayer, known also as the "Lord's Barn."

## June

**27 1990** Sister Amata Miller, education coordinator for NETWORK, testifies before the U.S. House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs regarding the Economic Adjustment, Diversification, Conversion and Stabilization Act of 1990.



*Sister Amata Miller alongside George E. Ogle of the United Methodist Church*

**28 2003** A dozen Monroe IHMs, along with members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence and both Eastern IHM congregations, begin a week-long retreat in Baltimore to examine the issue of racism.

**29 1958** A group of 38 IHM Sisters become the first to profess their temporary vows for a span of five years rather than three.

**30 1910** Postulants Marguerite (later Sister Vincent de Paul) McGivney and Mary (later Sister Mary Jerome) Sanford graduate with honors from the University of Michigan. Their final vows were delayed until after their degrees were earned since, at that time, renowned Catholic universities did not admit women religious and professed sisters were prohibited by Church policy from attending secular institutions. They were the first of many IHMs to be educated in this way.

# JULY

July

1

1969

From the upper level of their own back porch, IHM Sisters in summer residence at St. Boniface Convent enjoy the Canada Day fireworks just across the Detroit River.

2

1945

The "Centennial Class" entering the IHM congregation on this date includes six classmates from St. Mary of Redford in Detroit: Patricia (Helen Mary) Aselytne, Madonna (Martha Ann) Oswald, Mary Ellen (John Elizabeth) Keyes, Therese (Rose Matthew) Mangini, Suzanne (Mary Albert) Fleming and Noreen (Francis Edward) Wholihan. They would still be together 50 years later to celebrate the IHM Sesquicentennial.

3

1975

In a letter to the congregation, Sister Margaret Brennan, IHM general superior, and Sister Lorraine Humphrey, assistant provincial of the Northwest Province, ask for volunteers to teach basic English skills to Vietnamese refugees housed at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Nearly a dozen sisters answer the call.

4

1964

The Sunday Office is prayed in English for the first time in the Motherhouse Chapel.

5

1970

The Northwest Province of the IHM congregation purchases a retreat and recreation cottage on Paw Paw Lake in Watervliet, Mich. The former camp for young girls serves as a place of retreat and recreation for the next 31 years.

6

1975

Mother Teresa (Eleanor) McMenemy of the Society of Christ Our King, Va., enters the IHM Motherhouse Infirmary. Only a few of her order, known for supporting the Civil Rights Movement, still remain and they are unable to care for her. She dies six weeks later.

7

1957

The IHM community celebrates the Golden Jubilee Day of Msgr. Walter Marron, Motherhouse chaplain since 1921, with a musical tribute on the front lawn. Msgr. Marron then addresses the sisters and invited guests to announce that Detroit Bishop Henry Donnelly has approved the Monsignor's request to grant five days of recreation to the community to mark the occasion.



*Msgr. Walter Marron in 1934, when he was elevated to the rank of Monsignor*

8

1978

Sister Mary Kinney, IHM general superior, and Sister Rose Estelle Kissane, Motherhouse administrator, formally welcome 80 former IHMs to the Monroe Campus for the first ever reunion of current and former members of the IHM congregation.

1989

The wedding of Kaye Lani Rae Rafko, St. Mary Academy graduate and Miss America 1988, and Charles Wilson takes place at St. Mary Church in Monroe. All the IHMs who had taught her are invited to a special reception at St. Mary Conference Center.

9

1871

Due to the great demand for IHM Sisters to teach within the Detroit Diocese, the mission at St. Mary Parish in Painesville, Ohio, closes after nine years.



# July

July

10

1940

Though most of the parts had shipped a month earlier, the façade, or case, of the Motherhouse Chapel's Casavant Frères organ is shipped on this day from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

1957

At the close of a two-day blood drive by the Monroe County Red Cross a total of 383 individuals — among them 338 IHM Sisters — volunteer to give blood, a record turnout for the county.



(Left to right) Sisters Ann Michael (Mary) Papis, Casimira (Virginia) Parker and Mary Victor (Marie) Walter

11

1965

A Redemptorist priest from Thailand, Rev. Chai, celebrates his Silver Jubilee at the Most Holy Redeemer Church in Detroit. Many of the IHM Sisters spending the summer at the Holy Redeemer Convent attend, along with two Thai sisters staying at the Motherhouse, Sisters Praxedes and Cecilia.

12

2005

A memo from the IHM Communications Office announces the installation of a 20-foot windmill on the Motherhouse campus to aerate the pond that recycles water for reuse in the Motherhouse.

13

1978

Sister Marie Evelyn Dunn, principal of St. Patrick School in Carleton, attends a Principal's Effectiveness Institute at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. The week-long event brings together more than 230 Catholic school leaders from 24 states.

14

1996

Carmen Armenta Lara professes her vows in Ciudad Juárez, becoming the first woman from Mexico to become an IHM Sister.

July

15

2007

Sister Sharon Holland, one of the first female canon lawyers to work at the Vatican, is awarded the International Medal from St. John University in Rome.

16

1858

Johanna Christina Gerretson, a German postulant from Buffalo, receives the habit and the religious name Mary Gertrude. She would become Mother Gertrude in 1865, at the age of 25.

17

1943

Mother Teresa McGivney receives Monroe Mayor George Danz and other city officials for the final transfer of the old St. Mary Park, land once occupied by the IHM Motherhouse, to the City of Monroe.

18

1976

More than 60 IHM Sisters, representing the congregation's Northeast Province, enjoy a picnic and a day of renewal on the grounds of the Holy Cross Convent in Marine City, Mich.

19

1916

The cornerstone is laid for the Hall of the Divine Child in Monroe, a new boarding school for boys. It opens in January of 1918 with 18 students in attendance.

20

1915

Renowned stage performer Frederick Warde presents scenes from Shakespeare at St. Mary Academy. In 1912 he starred in one of the earliest surviving feature films, *Richard III*.

21

2001

At a celebration of the 300th anniversary of Ste. Anne Parish in Detroit, IHM President Sister Virginia Pfau accepts an award on behalf of the IHM Sisters. In 1865, they became the first congregation of women religious to teach at the school.

22

1920

Sister Margaret Mary Look takes the name of newly canonized saint, Margaret Mary of Alacoque and is the first IHM Sister to receive a religious name that does not start with Mary.

## July

23

1950

IHM General Superior Mother Teresa McGivney announces the names of the sisters who are to go to Mobile, Ala., to open the mission at St. Peter Claver. Sisters Angelique Rose, Muriel (Clement Mary) Fulford and Eileen (Praxedes) Mills will be joined by Mary (Ann Michael) Pipis, a junior professed sister and former student of St. Mary Academy.



*Mother Teresa McGivney with students of St. Peter Claver*

24

1997

A reception and book signing is held at the Motherhouse to launch the new book, *Building Sisterhood: A Feminist History of the IHM Congregation*, a collection of 13 essays by IHM Sisters.

25

2003

The IHM congregation wraps up a two-day event, "Vision Days 2003," the first community-wide gathering in the newly renovated Motherhouse.

26

1920

The revised IHM Constitutions receive final approbation from Pope Benedict XV. With this approval, the IHM congregation becomes a pontifical institute — that is, under the authority of Rome, not of a local bishop.

1945

The centennial celebration of the IHM community includes multiple bishops and monsignors, 250 priests, and more than 100 visiting sisters from 12 religious orders. The Mayor issues a proclamation and asks all citizens of Monroe to display the flag in honor of the event.

## July

1967

As three days of unrest in Detroit wanes, an unnamed IHM Sister at the Marygrove College Convent reflects: "This summer will be long remembered ... When things began to calm down, about 300 of our Sisters went down to help distribute food and clothing, give blood at the hospitals, and even went to the Circuit Court (at a call from Judge Callahan) to help screen the records of those who were jailed — to sort out the ones who had no police record."

27

2007

The new labyrinth on the west side of the Motherhouse campus, created with funds donated in memory of Sister Ann E. Chester, is dedicated.

28

2001

Due to the ongoing renovation of the Motherhouse, this year's Jubilee Day includes Mass in the St. Mary Auditorium and a wonderful meal under large tents in the Academy courtyard.

29

2005

More than 950 sisters assemble in Immaculata, Pa., for the first gathering of all four congregations associated with Mother Theresa Maxis: the IHMs of Monroe, Immaculata and Scranton, Pa., and the Oblate Sisters of Providence of Baltimore.

30

1926

The IHM congregation purchases the 157-acre Jacob Newcomer farm, purportedly acquired by Mr. Newcomer some years earlier for a keg of whiskey, 20 lbs. of tobacco and a pail of fish.

31

1926

The IHM congregation purchases a 276-acre farm belonging to Mr. Fred Humphrey that includes 22 cows, 56 sheep, 30 hogs, 60 acres of corn and 1500 bushels of oats.

# AUGUST

## August

**1** **2009** The River House Spirituality Center opens, just across from the Monroe Motherhouse. Sister Mary Fran Uicker will be the coordinator.

**2** **1929** The new St. Mary Cemetery is consecrated and the remains of the congregation's co-founder, Rev. Louis Florent Gillet, are laid to rest in the new memorial chapel. Gillet died in France in 1892 and the transfer of his remains was facilitated by congregational archivist and historian Sister Rosalita Kelly.

**3** **1950** Registration is once again held at St. George School in Detroit, three years after it closed due to declining enrollment. A month later Sisters Mary Owen Trimble and Marie Adrian Cousino begin teaching 105 students in grades one through four.

**4** **1995** The IHM sesquicentennial opens in Monroe for nearly 1,600 IHM Sisters, including 570 from Immaculata, Pa. and 303 from Scranton, Pa.

**5** **1946** The Centennial Chalice, designed by Sister Nazarita Joly, goes on exhibit for the first time. It is made from the gold and gems of watches, rings, medals, etc., accumulated over the past 100 years.

**6** **1931** Mother Ruth Hankerd turns the first sod to break ground for the new Motherhouse, after which the steam shovel gets to work.



*Mother Ruth Hankerd and members of her council with gentlemen from the W. E. Wood Co. of Detroit*

## August

**7** **1981** Sister Lois Jackson is awarded a Master of Science in Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame, her fourth master's degree. She earned the first in 1968 (in Education), the second in 1976 (in Religious Studies) and the third earlier in 1981 (in Counseling).

**8** **1965** Sisters Dorothy (Mary Seton) Diederichs, Gertrude (Marie Bosco) O'Leary, and Helena Woods arrive in Recife, Brazil, to establish a joint mission with the Archdiocese of Detroit. Their arrival initiates a 40-year commitment to the poor and exploited of the city of Recife.

**9** **1962** IHM General Superior Mother Anna Marie Grix and each member of her Council turn a shovel of dirt as ground is broken for the new Liguori Hall addition to the Motherhouse, a future residence for retired senior sisters.

**10** **1968** Sister Robertine Romain, who died Aug. 6 after 47 years in the congregation, is the first IHM Sister to be laid to rest in the revised habit.

**11** **1995** The IHM Festival of Learning ends after a three-day series of events and discussions. More than 600 sisters explore the context of contemporary theology and how it has changed in the decades since Vatican II.

**12** **1967** Sister Ignatia Frye attends a conference for college teachers of advanced computer science at the University of Oklahoma where she lectures on the computer language Algol.

## August

- 13** **1974** Sister Laetitia Lariviere, soon joined by Sisters Julia Seim and Joyce Durosko, arrives at St. Stephen's Indian School in Wyoming.



*Back (left to right): Sister Joyce Durosko; Sister Anthony, OSF; Sister Julia Seim; front: Sister Monica Suhayda, CSJ; Sister Laetitia Lariviere*

- 14** **1980** A family of three Laotian refugees arrives at the IHM Motherhouse. Sisters Margaret Schloff, Paula Marie Schloff and Mildred Baker sponsor them.

- 15** **1894** The longest serving general superior of the IHM congregation, Mother Clotilda Hoskyns, leaves office after having served a total of 19 years.

- 16** **1900** Sister Mechtildis McGrail is elected general superior of the IHM congregation. Upon the death in May 1901 of Msgr. Edward Joos, director and superior of the congregation for 43 years, Mother Mechtildis becomes the first general superior with full powers of office.

- 17** **2001** At an event attended by Sisters Frances Mlocek and Jeannette Walter, U.S. Rep. John Dingell, local officials, and representatives of Detroit Edison (DTE) publicly acknowledge and thank the IHM Sisters for past efforts to raise DTE's awareness of environmental issues.

## August

- 18** **1858** At the invitation of Bishop John Neumann of Philadelphia, Mother Theresa Maxis and Sister Aloysius Walter leave Monroe to establish the mission at St. Joseph, Susquehanna Co., Pa.

- 1968** The first House of Prayer Monroe Conference opens at the IHM Motherhouse with 156 attendees from 95 congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

- 19** **1965** The first biennial institute of Tri-IHM, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Education Conference, is held at Marywood College, Scranton, Pa. This meeting is a renewal of communication cut off by the separation of the Pennsylvania and Monroe communities more than a century earlier.

- 20** **1907** Ten IHM Sisters are sent to open schools for more than 500 students in the parishes of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Mary in Akron, Ohio.

- 21** **2009** Sister Antoinette Ruedisueli, who died on Aug. 16 after 65 years as an IHM Sister, is laid to rest in the first "green burial" in St. Mary Cemetery. The process involves no embalming and the casket is pine with a straw bed.

- 22** **1924** Five IHM Sisters arrive at Chicago's 63rd Street Station to establish a new mission at St. Felicitas Parish. Two weeks later the school opens with 132 students in attendance.

- 23** **1948** Monroe IHMs arrive in Puerto Rico to establish their first overseas mission, in the town of Cayey.

# August

## August

**24 1992** Sister Doreen Lynch rides out Hurricane Andrew during her sabbatical year in Florida. She and her four-month-old kitten had to evacuate from the Keys and take shelter with friends in the town of Perrine, Fla.

**25 2000** The last of the Motherhouse residents move next door into St. Mary Center, the former home of the Academy, in anticipation of the coming renovation.



*Sisters Mary Ann Untener (left), Audrey Bushell and Jane Farrell prepare to move the contents of the IHM Archives*

**26 1924** Four IHM Sisters travel 12 hours by trolley, boat and auto to open a mission at Our Lady of Lake Huron in Harbor Beach, Mich.

**27 1920** Sisters at the IHM Motherhouse are instructed in the singing of Gregorian Chant by Dom Galard, a Benedictine monk from St. Michael's Abbey in Farnborough, England.

**28 1931** When two Monroe banks close amidst fear of a run on withdrawals, Sisters Miriam Raymo, Marie Chantal Sipes and several others are sent to the local branch of the First National Bank. Their task is to deposit a single quarter or half dollar and then return to the end of the line where they try to reassure other customers while waiting to deposit yet another coin. Their efforts, along with those of others in the community, help end the rush on the banks and restore public confidence.

## August

**1969** Sisters Anna Marie Grix, Julia Seim and Ellen Balle arrive in Uganda to establish the first IHM mission in Africa.

**29 1867** Sisters De Sales Cassidy, Eulalia McKenna, Cleophas Johnson and Athanasia Curran (a novice) leave the IHM Motherhouse to open a school for boys at Most Holy Trinity in Detroit. More than 300 IHM Sisters would come to teach and minister within the school and parish over the next 137 years.

**30 1857** Sister Mary Joseph Walker is named the IHM congregation's first mistress of novices. She takes charge of one novice and two postulants.

**31 1987** The first full day of classes opens at St. Mary Catholic Central. This new institution, formed by the merger of St. Mary Academy and Monroe Catholic Central High School and housed in CC's school building, has to lease "portable classrooms" to accommodate the enrollment of more than 550 in grades nine through 12.



# SEPTEMBER

## September

**1** **1862** Sisters open a mission at St. Mary in Painesville, Ohio, but only after Bishop Lefevere makes it clear to the Bishop of Cleveland that the sisters would remain under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Detroit. (Thus avoiding any potential tumult like that which arose from the 1858 Pennsylvania mission and the establishment of a separate IHM congregation.)

**2** **1886** Rev. Edward Joos buys Patmos Island, now known as Sisters Island, for \$700. He transfers ownership to Mother Justina Riley the next day for \$1. It is to be a place of recreation for the sisters and students.

**3** **2012** Rev. Gilbert Enderle, CSsR, signs copies of his new biography of IHM co-founder Rev. Louis Florent Gillet, CSsR, *I Desire to be Everywhere*, at the Monroe Motherhouse.

**4** **1861** The first IHM School in Detroit, at St. Joseph Parish, opens with more than 80 girls in attendance.

**5** **1905** The first college classes are held at the new St. Mary College and Academy in Monroe.

**6** **1847** Rev. Louis Florent Gillet, CSsR, is recalled to Baltimore and replaced as IHM superior by Rev. Egidius Smulders, CSsR.

**7** **1970** Sister Ann E. Chester begins her 10-year residence at what would soon become the Kresge House of Prayer, on Boston Boulevard in Detroit.



*Sister Ann E. Chester in 1974*

## September

**8** **1932** The first day of school is held at the third St. Mary Academy, located on a campus of approximately 300 acres.

**9** **1942** The opening day enrollment at St. Mary Academy breaks all records with 291 high school students and 215 grade school students.

**10** **1886** After trying in vain to refuse the assignment, Sister Constantia Weadock and former general superior Mother Gertrude Gerretsen take up their lodgings near the new St. Francis Seminary in Monroe. The sisters are, according to the chronicles of the day, "to attend to the purchases, to oversee the servants, and to conduct the domestic department of the household." The seminary would close three years later.

**11** **1882** Sisters Johanna Burke and Anselm O'Neil ring the bell and welcome 135 children for their first day of teaching at Holy Redeemer School in Detroit.

**1966** Maryhill College, a coordinate college for women at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, welcomes 79 students. The first IHMs to staff the college are Sisters Ann Virginia Bowling, Marie André Walsh, Mary Kevin Kenny, Mary Mercy Geohegan and Grace Mary Olf.

**12** **1870** Sisters De Sales Cassidy, Adelaide Donovan and Victoria Fohey establish a school in the parish of St. Peter, Mount Clemens, Mich. The school, called St. Mary's, opens a week later with 140 boys and girls in attendance.

# September

## September

- 13** **2004** A statue of Our Lady of Grace, discovered in the powerhouse by Sister Ann Currier, is placed in the Liguori Courtyard of the IHM Motherhouse. Sisters Ann, Alys Currier and Josephine Sferrella are instrumental in the development of the courtyard, with its spring and summer flowers, into a centerpiece of the Motherhouse complex.



(Left to right) Sisters Alys Currier, Ann Currier and Josephine Sferrella

- 14** **1975** While some IHM Sisters celebrate the canonization of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit, others watch the ceremony on TV. Mother Seton founded the first American congregation of religious sisters, the Sisters of Charity, in 1809, as well as the first free Catholic school in the U.S.

- 15** **1941** Religious instruction classes are held for the first time for public school children at Detroit's Holy Redeemer School.

- 16** **1988** IHM Sisters receive their own copies of *Reflections on the Spirit of St. Alphonsus Liguori*, edited by Sister Margaret M. O'Shea.

- 2006** Sister Marie Hopkins signs copies of her recently published book, *The Marygrove College Preschool Story*, as part of Marygrove's annual Homecoming Week activities.

## September

- 17** **1870** Sister Theresa Persyn and another IHM are sent to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Buffalo, N.Y., to learn how to communicate with and instruct deaf members of the Monroe parishes.

- 18** **1863** The new IHM *Book of Customs* is approved by Detroit Bishop Peter Paul Lefevere.

- 19** **1927** An academic procession and Mass of the Holy Spirit precede the opening of classes on the new Marygrove College campus in Detroit.

- 20** **1944** The school year begins at Monroe's St. Mary Academy, delayed nearly two weeks due to the threat of polio.

- 21** **1955** Students, faculty and guests of St. John School in Jackson, Mich., enjoy their first "Pep Meeting" in the school's new gym.

- 22** **1966** Author and community organizer Saul Alinsky delivers a lecture on "The Democratic Dilemma" at Marygrove College.

- 23** **1986** IHM President Sister Carol Quigley addresses a crowd of 1,000 protesting U.S. aid to the Contras in Nicaragua outside Cobo Hall in Detroit where President Ronald Reagan is scheduled to lead a Republican fundraising rally the following day.

- 24** **1904** The IHM congregation purchases Park Place, a 106-acre farm across from Sisters Island (then called St. Edward's Island), for \$10,000.

- 25** **1999** The first meeting is held of the IHM Mission Effectiveness Committee (later changed to Mission Integration Committee), a group focusing on the concept of sponsorship as it relates both to IHM institutions and the ministries within the Monroe campus.

## September

**26** **1976** Sisters Agnes Anderson and Marie Rebecca Vonderhaar arrive in Ghana, West Africa, to establish an IHM mission that would continue for the next 20 years.

**27** **2006** The first Rite of Committal of Remains, those of Sister Gina Joseph, takes place in St. Mary Cemetery.

**28** **1942** Sister Dolora Neumaier opens the Marygrove Preschool with 43 children attending half-days, five days a week.



*Sister Dolora Neumaier*

**29** **1924** Sister Catherine Biry dies in Monroe at the age of 80. Sister Catherine was the last of the 12 IHM Sisters who remained after the separation between the Monroe and Pennsylvania congregations.

**30** **1996** Sister Elizabeth Walters faces trial with three other women for breaking into the U.S. Submarine Base in Groton, Conn., to protest the launching of the Trident submarine. The judge found they were acting out of a higher law and refused to jail or fine them, instead sentencing them to community service wherever they live.

# OCTOBER

## October

**1 1995** Twenty-five IHMs meet at Marygrove College in Detroit to reflect on eco-justice and begin a deeper conversation on the 1994 Chapter enactment to “recognize and respect the sacredness and interdependence of all creation.”

**2 2010** Sisters from the three IHM communities join members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence at the blessing of a new statue of IHM co-founder Mother Theresa Maxis at St. Mary’s Spiritual Center & Historic Site in Baltimore, the home of the Oblates, Mother Theresa’s first congregation.

**3 1960** A month-long exhibit prepared by Sisters Rosalita Kelly and Claudia Carlen to mark the 50th Anniversary of Marygrove College opens at the Detroit Historical Museum.

**4 2007** During the lunch hour, Motherhouse residents write out pleas on paper plates, urging members of Congress to vote for debt cancellation for poor nations.

**5 1867** The mission at St. Mary of Good Counsel in Adrian, Mich., reopens three years after fire destroyed both the school and the church.

**6 1984** Sister Genevieve Petrak arrives in Harare, Zimbabwe. After several months studying the culture and language of the Shona people, she joins the All Souls Mission in the village of Mutoko. Over the next dozen years three more IHMs would come to Zimbabwe to teach. Sister Genevieve was the last to leave the mission in 1997.



*Sister Genevieve Petrak at the All Souls Mission in Mutoko, Zimbabwe*

## October

**7 2003** Articles of Incorporation are finalized for the River Raisin Institute. Eight IHM Sisters serve on the founding board with Sister Janet Ryan as president and chair.

**8 1990** A groundbreaking ceremony takes place for the Theresa Maxis Senior Citizen Apartments on the grounds of Detroit’s Marygrove College.

**9 1912** A stretch of 75 acres is purchased by and formally deeded to the IHM congregation. Then known as the “Ilgenfritz Farm,” this addition to the 106 acres purchased in 1904 would become the site of the Motherhouse and St. Mary Academy 20 years later.

**10 1968** A new lecture series opens at Marygrove College under the direction of Sister Mary Anne (Stanislaus) Huddleston. The moderator for the series is Dayton, Ohio, talk show host Phil Donahue. Attendance is less than hoped for as on this day the Detroit Tigers win the World Series.

**11 1968** Five IHM Sisters begin a three-day visit near San Francisco with Thomas Merton, noted author and monk, to discuss ideas for their planned house of prayer. Tragically, Merton dies just two months later while in Thailand.

**1997** Former Hall of the Divine Child teacher, Sister Kathleen O’Brien, welcomes more than 280 “cadets” to the first HDC reunion.

## October

- 12 1988** Sisters Donna Schroeder, Margaret Hughes and Anne Marie Hughes begin a ministry in a small pueblo named Guasiquiro, Honduras inhabited by the indigenous Lenca tribe.



(Left to right) Sisters Margaret Hughes, Donna Schroeder, and Anne Marie Hughes

- 13 1994** The first national conference of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) opens its three-day session at St. Mary Center. IHM archivist Sister Rose Matthew Mangini gives the first presentation: "So You Want to Computerize?"

- 14 2005** Opening of the First Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit Conference. The IHM congregation is a conference partner, donating a \$2,000 ministry grant. In later years the conference is held at Marygrove College and Sisters Gloria Rivera and Paula Cathcart take on significant leadership roles.

- 15 1967** Sister Honora Jack wins two blue ribbons, two red ribbons, two honorable mentions and a trophy cup at the Detroit Chrysanthemum Society show.

- 2006** Visitation North Spirituality Center officially opens in the renovated convent at Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

- 16 1995** Adam Cardinal Maida and Judge Michael Talbot of the Detroit Archdiocesan Board of Education present the IHM Sisters with a proclamation honoring their 150 years of service to the Church and the schools within the Archdiocese.

## October

- 17 1978** Sharon Carolin, with Sister Marie Hopkins as her friend and sponsor, becomes the first IHM Associate in a commitment ceremony at the Visitation Barn.

- 18 1864** IHM General Superior Mother Mary Joseph Walker dies after a long illness. Three days later Sister Xavier Eagan, age 21, is appointed Superioress. Poor health forces her to resign after just two months in the position; she dies in March 1865.

- 1981** Sister Beth Wood, at the age of 52, completes her first Detroit Free Press Marathon in just under 5 1/2 hours. As of 2020, Sister Beth has run in over two dozen full and half marathons.

- 19 1946** This day marks the end of St. Mary Farms' biggest potato harvest up to that point: 6,000 bushels — about 165 tons of potatoes.

- 20 1997** Sister Carmen (Philomena) Rosado dies in her native Puerto Rico; she remains the only member of the Monroe IHM Sisters not buried in one of the congregational cemeteries.

- 21 1867** One IHM Sister begins instruction at what will come to be known as St. Augustine Negro School in Detroit. The school begins as a single room in the convent at St. Peter Parish and within a month it occupies its own one-story frame building.

- 22 1984** The publication *Spinnaker* debuts, a bi-monthly publication for IHM Sisters, Associates and friends to share the news of the community and ministries. Its first editor is Sister Mary Ann Hinsdale.



# October

## October

**23 2009** Sisters Maxine Kollasch and Julie Vieira record the first episode of their “Ask a Sister” podcast for A Nun’s Life Ministry.

**24 1939** On this day, the feast of St. Raphael, the bell of the Motherhouse Chapel, known as Gabriel 2, is rung for the first time. The 800-pound bell is, thankfully, fully electric!

**1998** Sister Marie Dorothy Eagan, the oldest IHM Sister ever, dies at the age of 105.



*Sister Marie Dorothy Eagan (in the habit) attends Mass in the IHM Motherhouse Chapel*

**25 2001** Mother Theresa Maxis is inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame at an awards dinner and ceremony in Lansing.

**26 2018** Students, teachers and administrators of Detroit’s Gesu School showcase the school’s environmentally friendly improvements — including rooftop solar panels — and thank the IHM Sisters for their decades of support for Gesu and their own efforts to care for the planet.

**27 1941** IHM Sisters from Detroit’s west side missions visit the new Immaculata High School. The Holy Redeemer Chronicles declare: “all concluded that it was the finest High School in the country. God is good to us.”

## October

**28 1934** The Michigan Chapter of the International Federated Catholic Alumnae hold their biennial meeting at St. Mary Academy, with representatives from the St. Joseph Sisters (Detroit and Kalamazoo), Sisters of Charity (Lansing, Jackson and Detroit), Sisters of Mercy (Grand Rapids), Felicians (Detroit) and Dominicans (Grand Rapids, Adrian, Royal Oak and Detroit).

**29 1972** The morning’s Eucharistic Celebration includes a departure service for Sisters Mary Simeon Krantz, Theresa Kreitz, and Marie Crepeau who will soon depart for the island of Grenada in the West Indies. Sister Bernetta Booms joins them the following January and remains until the mission closes in 1982.

**30 1930** The Board of the IHM Corporation authorizes Mother Ruth Hankerd to secure funds in the amount of \$3.5 million to refinance current debt and construct new Motherhouse and Academy buildings. Every asset of the congregation is put up as collateral. The final payment on the debt is made in 1976.

**31 1920** A march and demonstration are held to protest a statewide proposal to require all school-age children to attend the public school in the district in which they live. As many as 100,000 priests, religious sisters, students, parents and parishioners descend on Navin Field (the future Tiger Stadium) for the open-air Mass and rally led by Detroit Bishop Michael Gallagher. The proposal was defeated two days later.

# NOVEMBER

## November

**1 1950** Ceremonies are held in the Motherhouse Chapel in honor of the Proclamation of the Dogma of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady, proclaimed this day by Pope Pius XII and read to the congregation by Msgr. Walter Marron.

**2 1920** For the first time, IHM Sisters cast ballots in a presidential election. Their votes also help defeat a referendum to make attendance at public schools compulsory for all Michigan children.

**3 1855** The first IHM mission outside the city of Monroe opens at St. Joseph Parish in the village of Vienna (now Erie), Mich.

**1970** Michigan voters pass Proposal C, an amendment to the State Constitution that prohibits public aid to nonpublic schools and students. Many Catholic schools close as a result.

**4 2009** A film crew begins shooting scenes in the St. Mary Academy building for the independent film, *Mooz-Lum*. Starring Evan Ross, Nia Long and Danny Glover, it tells the story of an American-born Muslim youth coming to grips with his faith traditions in a post-9/11 world.

**5 1857** Rev. Edward Joos is named pastor of St. Mary Church in Monroe and superior and director of the IHM congregation.



Rev. Edward Joos, c. 1860

## November

**6 2017** An exhibit opens in the Motherhouse Gallery, "Experiences and Expressions of the Arts," featuring photos and artifacts from the IHM Archives that highlight the creative process and the imaginative spirit of the IHM Sisters.

**7 1993** In honor of her 18 years of service in the IHM Archives, Sister Celeste Rabaut is awarded the title Archivist Emerita by IHM President Sister Dorothy McDaniel.

**8 1914** Mother Mechtildis McGrail and Sister Annunciata Allen, on mission at St. Mary School in Akron, Ohio, attend the dedication of the new Villa Maria Academy sponsored by the IHM Sisters of Immaculata, Pa.

**9 1845** Theresa Renauld arrives in Monroe and the next morning becomes the first postulant in the new community. In a month's time she receives the habit and takes the religious name Celestine; 50 years later she would become the congregation's first Golden Jubilarian.

**2014** Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit presides at the liturgy as IHM Sisters, donors and special guests celebrate the dedication of the Motherhouse Chapel's new altar, ambo, candle holders, processional cross and blessing font, all made of sustainably harvested ash wood.

**10 1845** A new congregation of women religious is founded when Rev. Louis Florent Gillet, CSSR, offers Mass inside St. Antoine Church (soon to be St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception) and rests his stole on the shoulder of each of the women present: Theresa Maxis, Charlotte (Ann) Shaaf and Theresa (Celestine) Renauld.

# November

## November

- 11 1918** The girls of St. Mary Academy have a float in Monroe's impromptu armistice parade to mark the end of World War I.



*St. Mary Academy students ride on their parade float through the snowy streets of Monroe*

- 12 1995** Nearly 1,000 people from the Monroe area attend an open house in the Motherhouse to learn about the congregation's history, daily life and commitment to the future.

- 13 1992** IHM Sisters from all three congregations—Monroe, Immaculata, Pa., and Scranton, Pa.—open an historic three-day meeting in Monroe to commemorate the centenary of IHM co-founder Louis Florent Gillet's death. Five hundred Monroe IHMs and 70 from the eastern congregations attend the event.

- 14 1992** *Gift of Fire*, the story of Rev. Louis Florent Gillet compiled by the IHM Archives staff, is published.

- 15 1905** The IHM Motherhouse Chronicles notes the "merriment" of sisters and pupils as they, "with the exception of the Minims," move into the new St. Mary College and Academy. *Minims* refers to the younger girls, perhaps grades one through six. (Later the term denotes the young Academy students who board at the nearby Hall of the Divine Child between 1918 and 1932.)

- 16 1920** Mother Katharine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, visits the Old Motherhouse. She would be canonized by the Catholic Church in 2000.

## November

- 17 1883** Miss Nellie Donohue, a recent graduate of St. Mary Academy, writes to Mother Clotilda Hoskyns for permission to join the IHM congregation: "I am not worthy of such a blessing but I feel that only there will I be truly happy." She takes the name Domitilla and later serves as general superior from 1918-1930.

- 18 2005** In a display titled "Arlington Midwest," 2,000 small, white tombstones are spread across the Motherhouse front lawn to honor the fallen soldiers of the ongoing Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

- 19 1988** Monroe Motherhouse sisters enjoy the annual Michigan-Ohio State football game. Per the official chronicles: "This event is a traditional occasion for merriment at the Motherhouse ... All the IHM cheerleaders, discounting arthritic joints, ring the rafters with cheers and unbelievable gyrations."

- 20 1971** Sisters Therese LeBlanc and Mary Lou Theisen depart for India to help Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

- 2002** At a press conference in Detroit, Sister Nancy Sylvester announces the launch of the Interfaith Energy and Climate Campaign. IHM Sisters in hybrid vehicles displaying "What Would Jesus Drive?" banners take participants to Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn where they ask Bill Ford to commit to build cars with greater fuel economy.

- 21 1905** Bishop John Foley of Detroit gives a blessing at the dedication of the new St. Mary College and Academy in Monroe.

## November

- 22 1998** 26 IHM Sisters, Associates and friends once again join thousands of protesters in a non-violent demonstration against the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) at Ft. Benning in Georgia, a training facility for Latin American military funded by U.S. tax dollars.



*IHM Peacemakers protest the SOA*

- 2002** Emmy-winning actress and former St. Mary Academy student Valerie Harper visits the Motherhouse. After a tour of the recent renovations, Sister Rose Marie Petranek presents Ms. Harper with a framed copy of her fifth grade report card.
- 23 1955** The IHM Sisters and students of Detroit's Most Holy Trinity School celebrate Rev. Clement Kern's feast day, ushering in an annual event to honor the parish pastor.
- 24 1989** Members of the IHM Central Administration, headed by Sister Dorothy McDaniel, embark on a 17-month-long schedule of travel to visit as many sisters as possible around the country to consult on issues and learn about their ministries, lives and local communities.
- 25 1943** The Von Trapp Family Singers, after giving a concert in town, perform in the Motherhouse Chapel. They sing the Adoremus and Laudate followed by a group of hymns in honor of Our Blessed Mother.

## November

- 26 1862** Sister Theresa Persyn arrives from Belgium after 23 years as a member of the Sisters of Charity. She brings her notebooks from the St. André Normal School in Bruges. This school's teaching methods will be used by IHM Sisters for some 60 years.



*Sister Theresa Persyn, while a member of the Sisters of Charity in Belgium*

- 27 1865** The remains of nine IHM Sisters are transferred from the the local cemetery on N. Monroe Street to St. Joseph Cemetery, to encircle the newly built chapel.
- 28 1988** In a ceremony at Holy Rosary Church in Detroit, 100 IHM Sisters and Associates recommit to the city and the parishes slated to close under a new Archdiocesan plan.
- 29 1871** Sister Henrietta (Catherine) Moroney from Scranton, Pa., becomes the first Monroe IHM Sister to transfer from one of the Eastern IHM congregations.
- 30 1992** Eight IHM Sisters meet with Haiti's exiled president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, during his call-to-action visit to Dearborn. Despite speaking to 1,000 people in one gathering that day, Aristide meets with the IHM Sisters and five members of Pax Christi Michigan privately in his suite at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

# DECEMBER

## December

**1** **2007** Sister Mary Ellen Sheehan leads a day-long workshop at the Motherhouse based on her work, *Four Stories: Integrating the Universe Story, the Christian Story, the Earth Story, and the IHM Story*, which was published in August.

**2** **2016** At a meeting of the IHM Associate Council, Sister Barbara Stanbridge shares her new monograph, *A Brief History of the IHM*, first in a series on the IHM congregation. An initiative of the Sponsorship Committee, the series would later include *Sponsorship as a Bridge* by Sister Mary Jane Herb; *Entrusted: the IHM Tradition of Education* by Sister Mary Katherine Hamilton; *Radiant Justice in IHM Mission and Identity* by Sister Kathleen Schultz; and *Ecological Consciousness: 21st Century Imperative* by Sister Paula Cathcart.

**3** **2003** Mother Theresa Maxis, co-founder of the IHM Sisters, is inducted into the Monroe County Hall of Fame. A commemorative plaque hangs in the county courthouse.

**4** **1996** A letter to IHM President Sister Mary McCann announces that the Department of Christian Service of the Archdiocese of Detroit is establishing the Sister Kay McLaughlin Award to honor Kay's work with refugees and immigrants.

**5** **2003** The IHM Motherhouse wins a 2003 Build Michigan Award from the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.

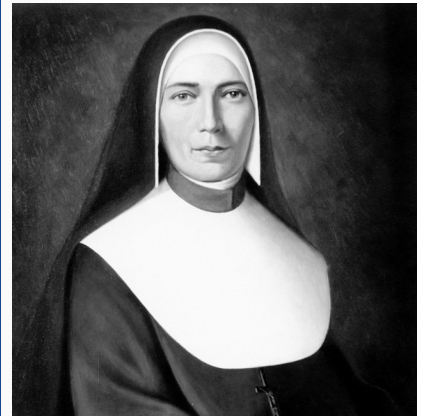
**6** **1861** Each member of the IHM congregation is presented with a copy of the newly approved *Rules and Constitutions of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, bound along with community prayers. Bishop Peter Paul Lefevere paid for 300 copies to be printed for current and future members of the congregation, which at that time stood at 17.

## December

**7** **1958** Mother Anna Marie Grix approves the development of the Pius XII Religious Education Center. It eventually moves from Monroe to Detroit and offers courses leading to a Master of Arts in Religious Education through an affiliation with the University of Detroit and the Lumen Vitae International Center in Belgium.

**8** **1847** The name of the Monroe congregation founded two years earlier is changed from the Sisters of Providence to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**1859** Mother Mary Joseph Walker is elected general superior of the IHM congregation. Bishop Lefevere appointed her to that position eight months earlier, following the dismissal of Mother Theresa Maxis.



*Portrait of Mother Mary Joseph Walker painted by Sister Blanche Vanderheyden in 1927*

**9** **1897** Ellen Ryan, the first registered nurse to enter the IHM congregation, receives the habit and the religious name Francina.



## December

**10 1896** Among the seven candidates who receive the holy habit on this day are Sisters Regina Reilly and Antonia Schmitt, who would both profess final vows on the same day, Dec. 15, 1898, and die on the same day, June 26, 1958. An unusual double funeral is held and more than 1,000 IHM Sisters walk to the Gillet Chapel in the cemetery for final prayers.

**11 2008** The Campus Greening Committee announces that Motherhouse staff will now use china and silverware in the dining room, thus reducing the expense and waste of disposables.

**12 2011** On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, artist and IHM iconographer Sister Nancy Lee Smith gives a presentation at the Monroe Motherhouse on the meaning of the Guadalupe Virgin in the light of current science. According to NASA, the stars on the virgin's robe replicate exactly the constellation of the southern sky on the night of Dec. 12, when the virgin appeared to Juan Diego.

**13 1955** Marygrove College is awarded a grant of \$479,300 from the Ford Foundation's \$500 million fund for non-endowed colleges and hospitals.

**14 2019** In her address to the final graduating class of Marygrove College, IHM President Sister Mary Jane Herb offers hearty congratulations and a challenge to all graduates to live their lives grounded in the principles of social justice, just as IHM Sisters have throughout their long history.

## December

**15 2013** Sister Joan Mumaw announces that she has been asked by Solidarity with South Sudan to start a not-for-profit organization in the Washington, D.C., area to educate and fundraise for the South Sudanese people.



*Sisters Annette St-Amour (left) and Joan Mumaw in the chapel at Good Shepherd Peace Center in Juba, South Sudan, 2018*

**16 1985** The congregation sells 5.5 acres of land adjacent to the IHM cemetery to the St. Joseph Cemetery Association.

**17 1996** Sister Anne Wisda and two Scranton IHM Sisters serve as members of an official observer delegation during the presidential election in Haiti.

**18 1945** A group of 48 choristers from St. Mary Academy, accompanied by Sisters Alphonsus Mary Charboneau and Marie Elaine Stoddard, sing carols at St. Joseph's City Hospital, Boys' Catholic Central, the post office and in the Motherhouse foyer.

**19 1978** At the invitation of Sister Theresa Grekowicz, Rev. Joe Mulligan, SJ, celebrates Mass with the IHM Sisters of the St. Vincent de Paul Convent in Detroit and gives a talk on the plight of the U.S. farm worker.

**20 1973** A reception is held in the Motherhouse Community Room to commemorate the retirement of Spiro Micallef, longtime master carpenter for the IHM congregation.

# December

## December

**21 1913** Bishop John Foley reads to the IHM community the Papal Decree of the Approbation of the Institute — that is, the approval of Pope Pius X of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as an institution and also of their revised constitutions that will be in effect for a period of seven years.

**22 1931** IHM General Superior Mother Ruth Hankerd turns on the electricity from the new powerhouse, providing a new source of light and heat for all buildings on the Monroe campus.



*Interior of the new powerhouse*

**23 1977** Smoke detectors are installed in the Motherhouse corridors.

**24 1968** Sisters at Marygrove College in Detroit celebrate the first midnight Mass in their convent chapel.

**25 1948** On this Christmas Day all sisters present at the Motherhouse receive copies of the two new publications by Sister Rosalita Kelly: *No Greater Service*, an 863-page history of the congregation's first hundred years and *Achievement of a Century*, which documents their institutions and missions.

## December

**26 1960** IHM Sisters who taught at St. Mary School in Mt. Clemens, Mich., or who were former members of the parish, return to celebrate the dedication of the new St. Mary Church and to mark "Sisters' Day" on the 27th.

**27 1963** A group of students from Most Holy Trinity School in Detroit sing patriotic hymns at the downtown Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel in honor of the late President John F. Kennedy.

**28 1868** After being denied re-entry into the IHM congregations in Monroe and Pennsylvania, Mother Theresa Maxis writes a final letter to Mother Elizabeth Bruyère, Superior of the Grey Nuns of Ottawa, accepting her offer of hospitality. Mother Theresa arrives in Ottawa 10 days later and remains for the next 16 years.

**29 2005** A farewell gathering takes place at Crawfton, the sisters' summer retreat home in Ontario, recently put up for sale. Despite bad weather, many attend to share their memories.

**30 1996** A three-day "Gathering for 2010" begins — a look ahead 14 years where younger IHM Sisters hear stories, wisdom and support from the "elders" and consider their own hopes and expectations for the future.

**31 1899** Sisters in the IHM Motherhouse usher in the new century by following Pope Leo XIII's wishes for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day.

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Names of IHM Sisters appear in **bold type**  
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Questions about the history of the IHM Sisters? Please contact us at [archives@ihmsisters.org](mailto:archives@ihmsisters.org).