



# IHM SISTERS E-NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022

## OSP- IHM Collaboration at the U.S.-Mexico Border By Margaret Chapman, IHM



On July 10, 2022, the first three IHM Sisters crossed the threshold into the new home of the OSP/IHM collaborative community in McAllen, Texas. The

core community members of this new endeavor are Sisters Mary Elaine Anderson and Elvia Mata from Scranton, Rose Patrice Kuhn from Immaculata and Carmen Armenta Lara from Monroe. Mary Elaine, Rose Patrice and Elvia are there now and will soon be joined by Carmen.

They were able to find a large house to rent that would accommodate the core community and have enough space to welcome others who may choose to volunteer for short periods. The home was unfurnished, so the Monroe IHM Motherhouse attic became the source of many pieces of much-needed furniture. Through the providence of God, we discovered that a moving company in Toledo, Fox Relocation Service, had space on a truck already scheduled for delivery in McAllen, Texas the same week the sisters were getting the key to the house! The truck arrived July 15 and the sisters immediately set to work setting up the house.

Initially, their ministry will be at the Humanitarian Respite Center, sponsored by Catholic Charities of

the Rio Grande Valley, Diocese of Brownsville. The Center was established in 2014 in response to the refugee crisis at the Mexican/Texas border. Since that time, the Center has served over 100,000 refugees. Many other centers in the area provide short- and longer-term support for persons migrating from different parts of Mexico, Central and South America. Our sisters will be looking at some of the other opportunities as they become more settled.

As their life and ministry continue to unfold in McAllen, the sisters will send updates that we will share. On-going communications will include ways



*IHM staff Kyle Lange, Tim Stomper, Mike Jacobs, Dallas Sparks, Kellie Stiner and Peggy Schmidt, IHM, loading up the truck.*



*Continued on next page ...*

friends can support this new ministry.

News about a parallel IHM response to the refugee crisis came in July when IHM Sisters Maria Antonia Aranda Diaz and Maureen Kelly, who have ministered in Juarez, Mexico for many years, received a grant from the Hilton Foundation to begin setting up a respite center in Juarez. They were given an abandoned school, which needs considerable rehab work but has good bones.” They will have many partners in this project. We will share more as the center in Juarez develops.



*Do I have the right parts?*



*In McAllen, Texas, Sisters Mary Elaine Anderson, Rose Patrice Kuhn, Elvia Mata and Carmen Armenta are providing direct service to asylum seekers who need temporary respite and help contacting their sponsors in the United States.*

## Leading from the sacred heart

By Barbara Bacci Yugovich,  
IHM Associate Co-Coordinator

Candy Rekart, IHM, and I received an invitation from the Leadership Collaborative, which included sisters and associates who were once part of the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR), to participate in a summer retreat led by Teresa Posakony, author of *Leading from the Sacred Heart*. The retreat was held at Holy Wisdom Monastery, the home of Benedictine Women of Madison, in Middleton, Wisconsin. As an IHM Associate Co-Coordinator, I was drawn by this invitation to go deeper into my understanding of what it means to lead from the Sacred Heart. The days offered many experiences and reflections to recognize the powerful role that our hearts play in personal transformation. We joined with 14 sisters and associates from various congregations who were also seeking to embody love in action in their ministries, communities and relationships in this time of profound transformation.

Participants explored and experienced a variety of spiritual practices to empower us in this time. I learned that leading from the heart invites us to recognize the presence of the divine in one another. We were invited to recognize the presence of the divine in everybody. As group leaders with roots in NACAR, we were reminded of Margaret Wheatley to be “hospice workers for the



old” and “midwives to the new;” of Joanna Macy who speaks of the great turning; and of Ilia Delio who speaks of the new cosmology, the collective Christ consciousness and wisdom Sophia consciousness.

I learned that nurturing the practice of acceptance and coming home to our hearts can open us to new possibilities when we create an inner space of love, joy or curiosity, key qualities for staying centered and available to others.

As a carrier of the IHM charism, I am committed to this ongoing work of living in the questions as well as the answers through heart-centered leadership.

***What does it mean for you to lead from the Sacred Heart?***



## Scenes from the LCWR Assembly:

### *Mystical Wisdom: Following Spirit's Beckoning*

The assembly, held from August 9-12 in St. Louis, brought together nearly 700 leaders of orders of Catholic sisters, along with more than 100 guests. Designed to provide leaders with information and inspiration, the assembly included speakers and various processes where participants listened to one another, claimed their own internal wisdom and learned how to apply that wisdom to the complexities and decisions that demand their energy and time.



Jane Herb, IHM pictured at the end of her LCWR Presidential address.



Nancy Sylvester, IHM executive director of Network from 1982-1992 celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Network. (Pictured second from the right)



Ann Oestreich, IHM represented US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking and Joan Mumaw, IHM Friends in Solidarity at the LCWR Annual Assembly.

## **SAVE THE DATE**



### Wisdom from the Mystics Retreat with Kathie Budesky, IHM, and Fran J. Daly, SJ

**October 12-16**

The retreat begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday and concludes at noon Sunday.

Lunch is included Wednesday through Saturday

Karl Rahner, SJ, one of the greatest theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, claimed that "the Christian of the future will either be a mystic or will cease to be anything at all." What is mysticism and how does one become a mystic? In this retreat, we will look to the lives and writings of some of the great mystics in our tradition to see what wisdom they might offer us on our faith journey into the future. To register, email [ihmspirituality@ihmsisters.org](mailto:ihmspirituality@ihmsisters.org) or call 734-240-5494.

## Worthy of Note from the Alphonsus Liguori Library

*North to Paradise: A Memoir* by Ousman Umar

While the committee selecting books to be shared every four to six weeks never planned to follow a theme, they have. The theme is “journey,” which is not the only commonality. Others were younger main characters who struggled to find themselves or a significant person from their history or searching for opportunities to live in a free, empowering culture. This is true of September’s *North of Paradise*, which shares similarities, but also has significant differences.

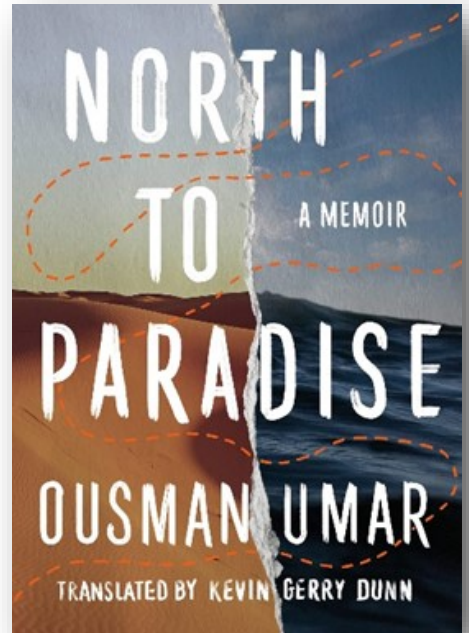
*North of Paradise* is a memoir, a story written from the author’s perspective about an important part of his life. The book is only 140 pages. It begins when the author is about eight, living with his family in Ghana; 12 when he leaves home and 17 when he arrives in Spain. It describes a journey of walking through Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Mali, Morocco and Mauritania, finally ending in Spain. There are many differences between the experiences of Ousman Umar in *North to Paradise* and most of the characters in recently discussed novels. Characters in previous books used different ways to get to their destinations. Walking was primary for some. Traveling for some of the characters in our first novels was usually safe and pleasant; for others, walking, most often in the dark, was terrifying and dangerous, be it in swamps, cities or woods.

This is the true story of a young boy’s life in Ghana with his father and family; the death of his mother during his birth; their simple, but hard life making ends meet. They are neither homeless nor hungry,

nor do they have many opportunities. Their Ghanaian life cycle is predictable: birth, maturing, marrying and dying. Umar, bright and curious as he watches the huge, silver planes flying over the fields where he is working, wonders about those who fly them and those who live in the “land of the whites.” While he can’t imagine it, he remains intrigued. *North to Paradise* is Umar’s story of his adventures en route to the ‘land of the whites’ and much of what he experienced, learned, felt and suffered pursuing his dream. He had firsthand experience of violence and brutality of all kinds. From his ordeals, he shares some of his conclusions. Not an easy read, this book is an honest presentation of one survivor’s discoveries and resolve. His words:

*Given all the hardship I have experienced, it would be easy to think that the world is full of bad people, but I prefer to believe that most people are good. It is just that the good people make less noise.*

*Reviewed by Mary Agnes Ryan, IHM*



## Art Exhibit at IHM Gallery

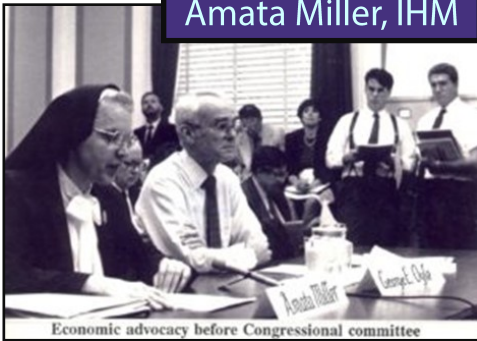
### [Haiti Outreach Mission Photography Exhibit](#)

July 18 through September 12, the featured exhibit in the IHM Gallery is a photography exhibit from the Haiti Outreach Mission. The exhibit is free and open to the public by appointment only (please give 48 hours notice). For more information about the exhibit and admission, contact Emilie Connor at [econner@ihmsisters.org](mailto:econner@ihmsisters.org).



## Then & Now

Born to John R. Miller and Ruth I. Munson, Amata (then Alice Rose) was the eldest of four, with two sisters, Anne and Mary and a brother, John Jr. Mary, Amata and three of Anne's daughters and their children are the remnants of the small family and surround one another with love.



Growing up in Gesu Parish, IHM Sisters and Jesuit priests nurtured the family's faith. From the first time she knew sisters in the second grade, Amata knew she wanted to be one. Her teachers at Gesu and Immaculata, especially Sister Malachy (Margaret Sullivan), fostered her vocation over many years.

As a high schooler, she was a Sunday organist at Our Lady of Victory parish and there she came to know the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Her education and her family experiences fed her strong commitment to social justice. At age 17, she entered the IHM community in the class of 1950, one of the first to benefit from earning a college degree before beginning to teach.

Sisters Mary Emil Penet and Xaveria Barton inculcated the sense of global concerns and the social responsibility of Catholic educators. In the Novitiate, emphasis on the then flowering liturgical movement and the then pre-Vatican II theologies enriched her sense of a global Church.

Judith is the second of three daughters born to Jack and Corinne O'Brien. She was the "middle," her sisters, Mary Kay, 18 months older and Nancy, eight years younger. Nancy charted the path to a love for teaching and cherishing young children. Judith loved each of her growing-up steps. In time, babysitting, helping with after-school religion classes and working as a camp counselor, teaching crafts, archery and swimming placed her with young children, who formed a place in her heart.



Judith O'Brien, IHM

The IHM Sisters teaching at Gesu and Immaculata were kind, prayerful and competent. They inspired her to "go and do likewise." Judith entered the IHM community at age 17, following high school graduation from Immaculata.

The multitude of white-veiled novices and the singing of chant filling the Chapel was like nothing in the parish experience of Gesu (even with five often-active altars). Monroe was another world, opening fresh insights through community life, classes, books and prayer life.

The five years in Monroe prepared her to teach under the wings of Sister Marie Winifred. Vatican II opened new doors to faith formation and Sister Mary Jo Maher saw a future in new geographic sites. After ten years in five different parish schools teaching primary grades, new doors opened on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana.

[Read more about Sister Amata.](#)

[Read more about Sister Judith.](#)



Patricia Dearbaugh, IHM:  
Jan. 24, 1941-  
July 12, 2022



Remembering

Mary Ann (Madeline Marie) Ford, IHM:  
July 3, 1932-  
Aug. 10, 2022



## Marygrove minute



Your Marygrove Alumni Association was just one of the organizations and businesses that participated in the first Marygrove Conservancy Block Party August 13. They gave away Marygrove College tee shirts (remaining bookstore stock!) to neighborhood children. They also made wonderful connections with several alumni who were not on the database list. A fun community-building time was had by all.



Alumni Board members who represented us at the Marygrove Conservancy Block

The all class composite photos are now accessible via the Marygrove Alumni page of the Conservancy website [Marygrove College Alumni Association - Marygrove Conservancy](#). Easily find your class or that of a relative. The years covered are 1928 through 2017, except for 1987, 1994, 1998 and 2012. Please, we need your help finding a copy of these years to complete this part of Marygrove's history. Reach out to [alumni@marygroveconservancy.org](mailto:alumni@marygroveconservancy.org) if you can help with this search. Kudos to Dr. Elizabeth Burns for her immense effort in making this dream a reality. The original copies will be kept in the IHM archives in Monroe.

Finally, if you are reading this September 2, this is your last day to sign up for this year's All Alumni Reunion Saturday, Sept. 10. Don't miss the excellent opportunity for a lovely day, including tours of both the state-of-the-art Early Education Center as well as The School at Marygrove, which will include all four grades, nine through 12! Do not delay clicking [here](#) to get all the details and register online. You will not be disappointed!



As always, thanks for reading, and check out the Marygrove Alumni and Friends Facebook page for updates on alums and events.

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### On the IHM website

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