



We share this remembering in celebration of the blessing that Sister Lurana Sankovic is to her family, to her friends, to the thousands of people to whom she ministered and to our IHM Congregation. This past year, Sister Lurana approved this remembering.

As a glimpse into the Sankovic family, I share that Sister Lurana's father, Blaise Sankovic, was born in Czechoslovakia, and her mother, Antoinette Yurkovic, was born in Yugoslavia. As teenagers, they experienced the horrors of World War I. After the war ended, Blaise moved to the United States, planning to send for his bride-to-be in one year. Arriving in the U.S., Blaise went to work in the ore mines of Michigan's upper peninsula. This was followed by securing a

position in Detroit's auto industry because that is where he and Antoinette wanted to settle. In less than one year, he sent for Antoinette. She arrived, they were married, and they established their family home in Holy Redeemer Parish located in Southwest Detroit.

Sister Lurana was born to the Sankovic Family on March 10, 1922 and was baptized "Josephine." The youngest of five children, she joined brothers Thomas and Frank, and sisters Mary and Rose.

Both of her parents were devout Catholics, and they raised their children in a prayerful and religious home. All five children attended Holy Redeemer schools. That is where Josephine, our Sister Lurana, grew to love the IHM Sisters and to deeply appreciate the Redemptorist priests and brothers at the parish.

Josephine grew up enjoying both basketball and baseball. She loved to watch. She loved to play and she played any open position. Over the years she became a faithful fan of the Detroit Tigers. Josephine had a special love for Belle Isle. Every week she and the others went to Belle Isle with their dad for picnics, fun, beauty, walking and rolling downhill.

Josephine entered our congregation as a postulant on Sept. 8, 1941, and the novitiate on Aug. 15, 1942. In her final notes, she shares with us that she received the name, Lurana, from Mother Ruth Hankerd, who had recently met Mother Francis Lurana of the Graymoor Sisters of New York. The name "Lurana" means atonement in Greek.

As an IHM Sister and a disciple of Christ, Sister Lurana, sought holiness of life in the ordinary, and the everyday, and in service to others. She was dedicated to prayer, simplicity of lifestyle and ministry. Throughout her life, she was devoted to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Sister Lurana found it difficult to accept praise. This was sad because she made life happier and better for more people than she would ever believe.

As a teacher, Sister Lurana served students and their parents for 33 years. Ministering in the Michigan cities of Emmet, Detroit, Bloomfield Hills and Flint, Sister Lurana taught

first grade to twelfth grade as needed. Her of teaching began at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Emmett, Michigan. She was very happy there and she continued to hold that school and parish close to her heart throughout her life.

Later in life, Holy Redeemer High School was one of the schools that was blessed with the teaching ability and the love for the students that Sister Lurana brought. There, she was at home, and she was beloved by students, parents, faculty and administration. We Redeemer-ites always held Sister Lurana in high regard and with deep respect.

Sister Lurana had earned her undergraduate education degree at Marygrove College, and a master's degree in Education from Wayne State University.

After teaching, Sister Lurana went to work at Kundig Senior Citizen Center in Detroit, with the initial intention of being there just one year. She ministered to the senior citizens at the center for 14 years! They were among the poor and abandoned people that Sister Lurana helped throughout her life.

After retiring, Sister Lurana continued her life of prayer and service. She prayed to be in union with God and she prayed for the needs of our world. She visited the sick, volunteered on the second floor and cared for plants in many rooms and areas of the Motherhouse.

In Sister Lurana's file there are notes she dated as "2015." In 2022, Sister Lurana added this message:

I've enjoyed visiting in health care and assisted living and I renew cherished plants to enliven living spaces. This along with growing veggies on the veranda from seeds dried at summer's end keeps me CLOSE TO MOTHER EARTH.

Sister Lurana often shared that her greatest joy has been being a part of the IHM Sisters community. She shared often that she was grateful beyond words for all that she received from the congregation and for all the opportunities to minister.

On March 10, 2022, we celebrated Sister Lurana's 100th Birthday. Today we celebrate with Sister Lurana as the angels lead her into paradise.

Delivered by Elizabeth Walters, IHM, Nov. 21, 2022

NB: This text was reviewed and accepted with appreciation by Sister Lurana when it was completed in 2022. In 2015, Sister Lurana wrote this statement: "My personal wish is not to have a Remembering. I really prefer a hymn and a short prayer." After requests from friends during 2022, Lurana agreed to a Remembering.

Sister Lurana's notes and the writings of IHM Sisters Mary Ann Untener and Eleanor Fitzgibbons were resources for this Remembering dated Nov. 21, 2022.