



IHM SISTERS E-NEWS

JANUARY 2023

A tale of three respites By Agnes Anderson, IHM

Those who know me recognize that I am not as steady on my feet as I was in my younger days. One not-so-careful move and I may find myself on the floor, sometimes unable to get up without assistance. I take solace in knowing that the congregation has my back and that I always get the care I need.

In 2018, I broke my wrist, could not drive, and did not have enough strength in my good arm to accomplish many of my daily activities. I was offered a room as a respite resident in the independent area of the Senior Living Community. With services from the Clinic staff morning and evening, I was “good to go” for the day. The on-campus transportation office made sure that I got to scheduled appointments. An IHM driver took me to the literacy center in SW Detroit each week, where I continued my volunteer tutoring ministry.

I fell again in June 2020, when COVID was raging and vaccines were still in the developmental stage. The hospital discharged me to a Senior Living Community (SLC) licensed bed. Since all residents were then in quarantine, staff from the therapy department came to my room, gowned and masked. They walked the hallway and stairs with me. After 10 days, I was stronger, well enough to drive and return home, continuing with in-home therapy.

Last November, I took another tumble, and being



Sister Agnes with Veronica, a student receiving recognition for her progress in learning English.

unable to return home, I requested a room at the IHM SLC. This time I stayed five days in the assisted living area, mostly resting and taking meds for pain. I discovered that since my previous stays, the pastoral care staff had set up a TV channel, providing spirituality programming, soft music, and other things to keep one’s mind active while the body healed. I easily joined the Anderson family ZOOM on Thanksgiving Day with campus technology.

I do not look forward to taking any more falls! However, my experience assures me that whenever I need care, a place I have always called home awaits. I am most grateful for my life with the IHM Sisters.

JANUARY 2023

Journeying into a new year with “Midwest Kindred Spirits”

By: Barbara Bacci Yugovich, IHM Associate
IHM Associate Office



With the closure of NACAR (the North American Conference of Associates and Religious), the IHM Associate Office has been on a journey to seek connection with congregations of Sisters and Associates. Anne Crimmins, IHM, and I heard about Midwest Kindred Spirits (MKS). We reached out to them and learned they are one of the closer regions to Monroe, Michigan and have a current membership of approximately 25 congregations.

Its mission statement reads, “Midwest Kindred Spirits is an inter-congregational gathering of Associate Directors and Assistant Directors who assist and challenge each other for growth and development of the associate movement” (revised 2016). The logo for this group was designed to reflect an organization that is vital and alive, rooted in Christ and energized by the Spirit. The expanding lines reflect the outreach of the Midwest Kindred Spirits as this group embraces new ways of exploring and expressing mission. The rounded form behind the cross reflects the fullness shared in this collaborative venture. The color green is an expression of hope and new life. Sr. Doris Klein, CSA, designed the logo.

MKS meets twice a year officially and has begun a peer support Zoom call, which we are invited to attend. We are grateful to Marilyn Neuman, SPSM and others along the way who guided our path toward Midwest Kindred Spirits. Together with Midwest Kindred Spirits, we look forward to engaging with other congregations in this collaborative journey.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us Sunday, April 30, 10 a.m., for the IHM Associate anniversaries liturgy
with a social in the Maxis Community Room following.
More information is coming in the next edition of *Connections!*



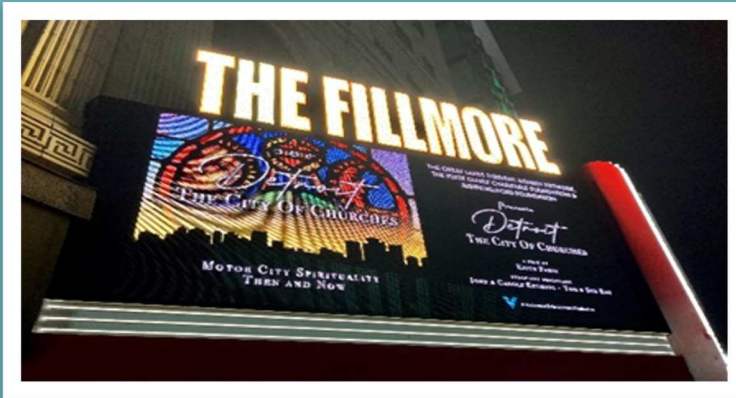
**Lenten Retreat: Speak, Lord,
your servant is listening**
with Fr. Dan Crosby, OFM Cap.

Sunday, March 22 – 26, 2023
Maxis Community Room

As we get older, we hope we’re growing not just in age but in grace: a deeper, richer inner life. Mary of Nazareth, the “woman wrapped in silence,”

shows us the way: receive the Word, relish its meaning, remember what it’s done for you, rest in its love and rejoice in its embrace. Our retreat will help us appreciate this path and the transformation it brought Our Lady. Registration fee is \$300 and the deadline to register is March 6. Contact IHM Spirituality Ministries at spirituality@ihmsisters.org or 734-240-5494. You can also register [online](#).

Sisters Irene and Sue at a movie premiere



Pictured are Irene Therese Gumbleton, IHM, Patricia Montemurri, award-winning journalist of "Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of Michigan," and Suzanne Sattler, IHM, at the premiere of [Detroit: The City of Churches](#) at the Fillmore Detroit a few weeks ago. The two-hour film, hosted by Chuck Gaidica, takes the audience on an in-depth look at Detroit's history from the perspective of 17 of Detroit's most beloved and iconic houses of worship and includes our very own Irene Therese Gumbleton, IHM.

Learn more about churches in the city through the series, [The Black Church in Detroit](#), featuring in-depth and heartfelt explorations of the dramatic and decisive role that the Black church has played in the history of the city. You can also [purchase Detroit: City of Churches](#).



Remembering



[Annette Boyle, IHM:](#)
April 23, 1924-
Dec. 5, 2022



[Lurana Sankovic, IHM:](#)
March 10, 1922 –
Nov. 18, 2022



[Jean Ann Gorman, IHM:](#)
Jan. 10, 1922-
Nov. 18, 2022

[Joan \(Lucille Marie\)
Monsour, IHM:](#)
April 26, 1933-
Nov. 23, 2022



[Juliana Casey, IHM:](#)
Oct. 19, 1940 –
Dec. 29, 2022

Nov. 2022 LCWR Meetings

By Jane Herb, IHM



In November, as past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), I attended several meetings in Baltimore. Although the LCWR board meeting was held virtually, the executive committee met in person. Despite meeting virtually, the board meeting was rich in conversation and sharing. One of the main areas of focus was developing the LCWR Call for the next five to seven years. Conversation also centered on the Assembly in 2024 as we continue our process of Discerning our Emerging Future.

Following the LCWR board meeting, the executive committees of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and the LCWR came together. Our conversations included the December Dicastery meeting in Rome, Eucharistic Revival and the Synodal journey. CICSAL invited, by language groups, the leaders of various conferences worldwide. In early December, there was a meeting for the English-speaking conferences. Representatives from the three conferences met to share our reality with the Dicastery. During our meeting, there was some conversation relating the Eucharistic Revival to the Synod process so that the Eucharistic can be inclusive of all our brothers and sisters. Concern was expressed that the Continental Phase would be a selective process, with each diocese inviting three to five people. Unless selected in the diocesan process, the voice of the religious will be missing from this phase.



Before the bishops' meeting, we met with the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry. In addition to the executive committees, we were joined by our Episcopal liaison, Bishop Ron Hicks, and the liaison to our conferences, Bishop Checcio and his successor, Bishop Boyea. We had a rich sharing with those gathered around the table, sharing our emerging realities. I felt that the bishops heard our concerns and would take them forward. We expressed hope that the representatives for the Synod process and the Eucharistic Revival will reflect our society's diversity and vulnerability.

Worthy of Note from the Alphonsus Liguori Library ...

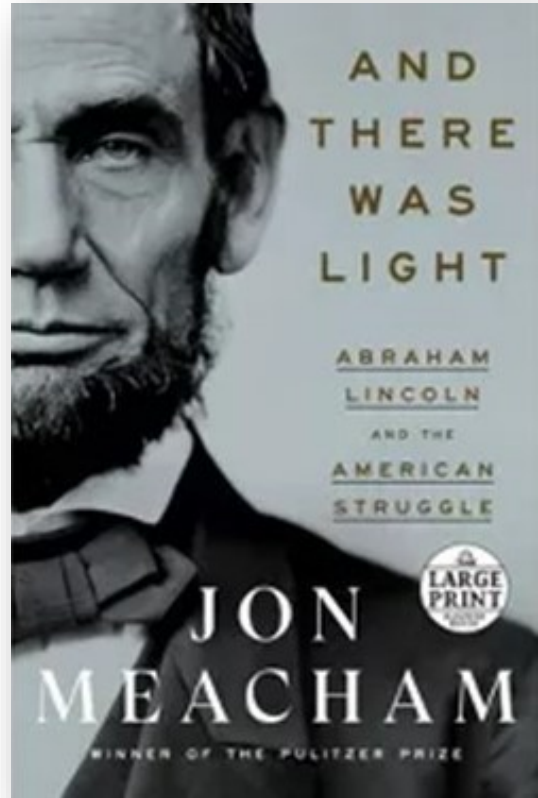
And There Was Light by Jon Meacham
Reviewed by library staff

With more than 16,000 books written about Abraham Lincoln, many might wonder what more could be said. However, the resonances between our 21st-century polarization and the fractured state of the Union in mid-19th century America entice us to consider whether there is anything we can learn from Lincoln's time that might assist us with our own. Jon Meacham had that question in mind as he crafted his latest biography - *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*.

... While Lincoln cannot be wrenched from the context of his particular times, his story illuminates the ways and means of politics, the marshaling of power in a democracy, the durability of racism, and the capacity of conscience to help shape events. (Meacham, 2022, xxviii)

Meacham follows Lincoln from his rural Kentucky roots to his assassination in 1865, chronicling how his personal growth and moral evolution enabled him to lead a nation - fitfully and imperfectly - through a national disaster fueled by the "Big Lie" of his day - that slavery was a justifiable institution.

In his *Washington Post* review, John Witt highlights two themes that animate Meacham's retelling of Lincoln's narrative. The first is that "leadership in a democracy is a distinctive and indispensable moral enterprise - a kind of high-wire act of pragmatic compromise on the one hand and moral principle on the other." Meacham takes pains to describe Lincoln as a politician and not a preacher - as one who firmly believed that slavery was wrong but was slow in coming to a proclamation of emancipation. A man who insisted Black people were entitled to all the natural rights of the Declaration of Independence while renouncing the idea of political and social equality between the white



and black races when on speaker's platforms.

The second theme Witt identifies in Meacham's narrative is "the vitality of religious faith as a guiding force in politics, even and perhaps especially in moments of acute pressure." In Lincoln's remembrances from youth and his experiences of poverty and loss, Meacham finds a foundation for his values and ideas. He gives attention to the evolving moral universe of Abraham Lincoln and examines closely the social, political and theological writings that influenced Lincoln and echoed across his career. Meacham captures the religious framework from which Lincoln approached the most difficult decisions of his presidency.

And There Was Light is meaningful for all readers and reflects the thoroughness of Meacham's research (more than 200 additional pages of endnotes and bibliography).

Then & Now

Sept. 7, 1961, was the entrance day for Nancy. She wants to begin this page with that day because her years in formation at the Motherhouse were so impressionable that she counts it as a new birth— opening doors to a life that she could never have dreamed of.



Sister Nancy Ayotte

To understand and integrate all that formed her, she knows it had to grow on the foundation of her early life. Nancy was born May 4, 1943. Nancy is the third child in a family of seven children. The family home was in Detroit, where she attended St. Cecilia School in her primary years.

Later, after moving to another home, she attended St. Mary of Redford grade and high school with all her brothers and sisters.

She remembers that their entire neighborhood was Catholic and throngs of children walked the two blocks daily to school. The parish was large and thriving. "Our lives were formed and circumscribed by our school and church. We thought this way of life would never end."

[Read more about Sister Nancy](#)

Born and raised in Pontiac, Michigan, Sharon Holland was educated in the public school system from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Her mother, a Roman Catholic from the Upper Peninsula (UP), was a teacher in public schools until she married Sharon's father. Her father, a Baptist was from Virginia, attended law school in Detroit and was an attorney in Pontiac, later becoming a Judge.



Sister Sharon Holland

Sharon says she had very little catechism as a child, except for communion and Confirmation requirements. Her mother taught Sharon and her brother the prayers and went to Sunday Mass. Her parents managed their religious traditions respectfully and her father even taught adult Sunday School. Growing up in an ecumenical household may have heightened Sharon's interest in religion. She supplemented her sparse classroom religious education with church pamphlet rack reading.

[Read more about Sister Sharon](#)

From the Development office...

On Dec. 22, 2022, sisters, staff and friends gathered in the Motherhouse foyer for the annual blessing and lighting of the Christmas Tribute Tree. We celebrated and prayerfully remembered the many tributes sent from our benefactors. The light and cheer given by the tree were a sign of the joy and thankfulness that filled our hearts. The generous support we received totaled \$25,625. These gifts will help enhance living spaces in our assisted living areas and McGivney Way, our specialized memory care unit. Proceeds will also help us purchase automatic door openers for areas that are not readily accessible to sisters who require mobility assistance. We are truly grateful for the generosity shown to us during the Christmas season and thank our generous benefactors for their continued support.



Marygrove Minute

Greetings to all alums and friends for the New Year. We'd like to introduce your Alumni Association Officers who give their time to represent you.



Victoria B. Edwards, Class of 1997, is the newly elected President of the Marygrove College Alumni Association board of directors. Throughout her career at some of Detroit's most respected companies and high-profile projects, Ms. Edwards has held increasingly responsible administrative positions and has been directly involved in and or responsible for various staff and service operations, corporate administration organizational development, human resource departmental activities, board governance and community outreach initiatives. Ms. Edwards volunteers her time and resources to children's causes in and around Detroit through her service to various organizations which include the North End Youth Improvement Council, Junior League of Detroit, Detroit Association of Women's Clubs and Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc. She brings her wealth of experience in project management, team leading, driving change and blazing a trail for many to follow back to her alma mater Marygrove College.

Rahjinah Johnson, a Marygrove College graduate and current vice president of the Alumni Board, earned her bachelor's degree in 2003. She matriculated with a master's in educational leadership in 2005. She is an incumbent practitioner in the field of education with a concentration in implementation and student learning mastery and curriculum management. She believes teaching and learning are lifelong endeavors. She worked as an adjunct instructor teaching Technology in the Classroom to educators at Marygrove College. She feels strongly about building healthy and sustainable relationships among like-minded individuals. She admires those who do what is right when no one is looking. She is someone with love for the creator. She believes in being kind to others and standing up for what is fair and just at any cost. She is a firm believer that life is too short to waste or be sad, so she practices utilizing her time generating ideas for the betterment of the community and world. She enjoys reading, networking, traveling and shopping.



Frances Simmons has been a Marygrove College Alumni Board member since 2007. She previously served as a program chair for several years. She has served as Secretary for the past 2.5 years. She has been an Oak Park Toastmaster since 2014, served as president, membership vice president and secretary. For the past two years, she has been serving as education vice president. Frances holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Marygrove College. She has been retired from AT&T since 2011. She was an Application Programmer for 18 years and Team Lead for nine years. She enjoys the outdoors, kayaking, golfing and snowshoeing. She says that helping others enriches her life.

Isis Taylor has served as Treasurer of the Marygrove College Alumni Association for one year. She graduated from Marygrove College in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in business administration with an accounting concentration. She holds an MBA from Walsh College with a graduate certificate in project management. She worked at the college for over 20 years until its closure in 2019 and served as the director of student financial services and assistant controller. Presently, she is a senior business analyst with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.



Please feel free to reach out with any questions or to update our email database at alumni@marygroveconservancy.org. This is the only way we have to reach you! Remember our alum page at marygroveconservancy.org and Marygrove Alumni & Friends page on Facebook. Many thanks to the IHM Sisters Communications Office for providing this service to us since our beloved College closed.

May many blessings abound in your personal and professional lives in 2023!



SAVE THE DATE:
Sept. 16, 2023, for our next All Alumni Reunion
highlighting years ending in 3 and 8.



Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

On the IHM website

- ◆ Pass it on ...
 If you know someone who would like more information about what the IHM Sisters and Associates are doing, please forward this publication. If you have received this from a friend and would like to subscribe, click [here](#).
- ◆ *ihmpact* is published quarterly, highlighting news and events of the IHM Sisters as well as offering articles for reflection and contemplation. It is available by subscription or online.



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