

IHM SISTERS E-NEWS

South Africa: A life's work

Sister Peg O'Shea recently returned from 30 years of ministry with the people of South Africa. She is living at IHM SLC, where she began. In South Africa, she lived in a small village, Howick, about six hours from Johannesburg. Her ministry in Howick was as a parish assistant, serving the poor through the preschool, the HIV outreach, the home for abused children and serving food for the squatter camps. When Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years in captivity and elected the new President, one of his first acts was to establish preschools to empower the next generation of citizens who had heretofore been voiceless. Sister O'Shea shared that Howick was the place where Mandela had been arrested and taken to jail.

At the Parish church in Howick, there were three masses said Sunday, two in English and one in Zulu. The parish priest, Father Scott Davidson, learned the Zulu language so he could say mass for the people in their first language. Though many understood English, they enjoyed the service more in their own language.

Sister Peg's retirement was celebrated with a blessing from Father Davidson. He mentioned how the three wise men were changed by their journey and indicated Sister Peg had been changed by the Zulu people with whom she worked. As T.S. Eliot opined in *Little Giddings* (a work about turning to the face of God), "We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time."



The retirement farewell went into the next day and a tea followed. In celebration of Sister Peg, the Ladies of the Zulu Sodalities danced up the aisle in a fond farewell, presenting her with a generous gift that she donated to Caritas. (*"The vision of **CARITAS For Children** is to create a worldwide community of sponsors and beneficiaries, where relationships of compassion, generosity, and love foster the practice of true charity..."*) Many journeyed into the village to bid her goodbye. Yes, there is heart-wrenching poverty in Howick and there is white wealth. Yet, there is joy. Change has begun, but true equality is a much longer project and the erasure of the social construct of race remains a dream.

Sister Peg is not tired from her 30 years of work; she is ready to move to the next phase of her life. She has celebrated her 60th Jubilee. Her energy and vitality were palpable along with the twinkle in her eye. Wherever she lands will benefit greatly from her strength and life force.

The Personal Librarian

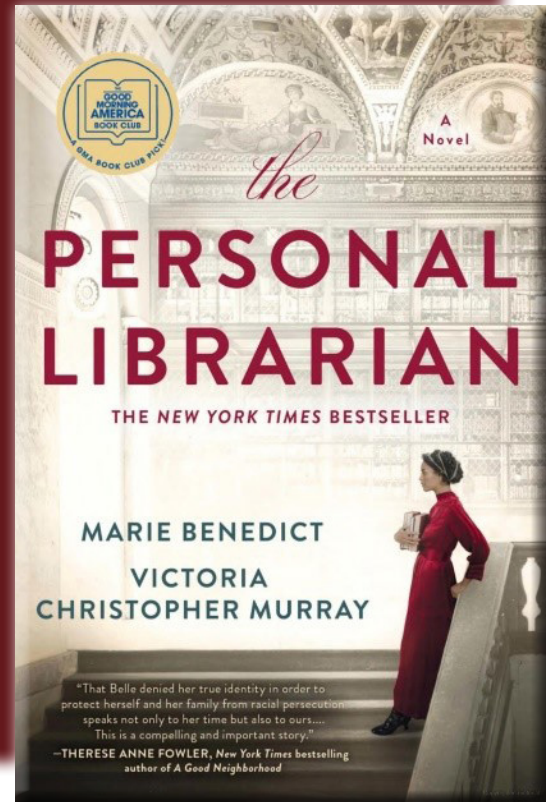
By Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

In Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray's, *The Personal Librarian*, we are immersed in the little-known true story of Belle da Costa Greene (1879-1950), who in her twenties is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. She has run the library for 43 years, initially as the private librarian of J.P. Morgan and then his son, Jack and later as the Library's inaugural director.

Known for her impeccable taste, talent for leveraging and shrewd negotiating, Belle becomes one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, winning grudging admiration in the all-White and male world of curators and dealers. Famous for her intellect, style and wit, Belle is a fixture on the New York society scene.

But she has a secret. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Morgan Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and Genevieve Fleet, daughter of a prominent African American family in Washington, D.C. After her parents' divorce, her mother moved to New York and changed her surname and that of her children to Greene. From the time Belle was a teenager, they described themselves as Americans of Portuguese descent and passed as White. In a segregated and deeply racist society, her mother encourages Belle to continue the deception, believing this is the only way her daughter will succeed in life.

The story is told in the first person. Each chapter is written as a journal, with dates and places in the present tense. This creative approach to nonfiction opens Belle's reality to the reader, offering insight into the lengths she had to go to protect her true identity, family and legacy. The authors' historical notes at the end of the book are very helpful and add to an understanding of this extraordinary woman's story. Additionally, [a Washington Post interview with the two authors](#) - a White woman and a Black woman - about their decision to jointly write this book is well worth the read.

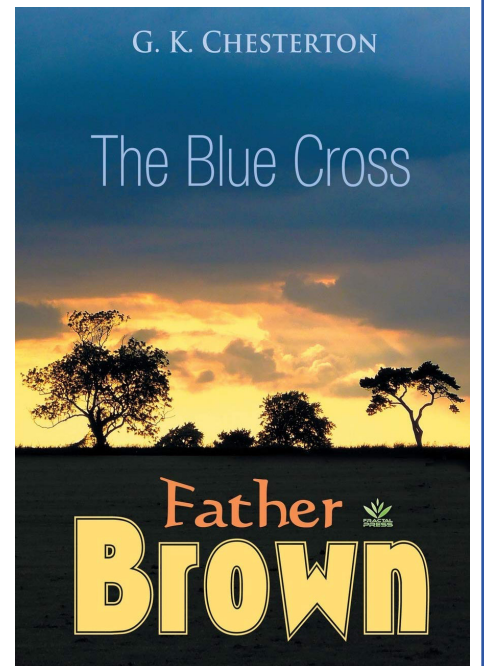


G.K Chesterton, Father Brown Crime Stories –

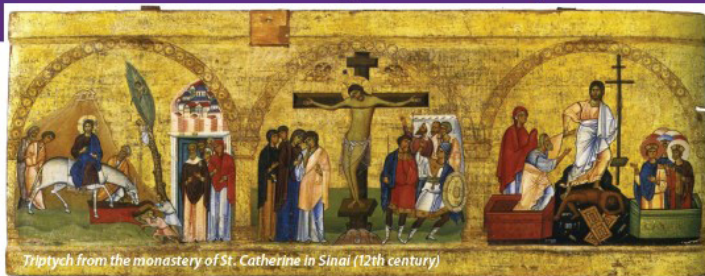
The Blue Cross

Father Brown, a fictional Roman Catholic priest and amateur detective is the feature character in a series of 53 short stories by English author G.K. Chesterton published between 1910 and 1936. *The Blue Cross* is the first of the series introducing the reader to the diminutive priest whose innocent face and unworldly simplicity, bumbling demeanor and huge umbrella belie his uncanny understanding of the criminal mind at work.

Witty and beautifully written, Chesterton's Father Brown mysteries serve as the basis for the Public Broadcasting Service series of the same name. The IHM Library has a collection of twenty-four of Father Brown's short mysteries. The entire series is also available [online](#).



Beloved: Entering into Holy Week



Triptych from the monastery of St. Catherine in Sinai (12th century)

with Lynne Moldenhauer, IHM, and Julie Vieira, IHM

**Saturday,
April 1, 2023**

Maxis IHM Spirituality Center
17380 Grange Rd. | Riverview, MI 48193

Near the Exit: Reflecting on *mortality* and *death* through *rituals* and *stories* from around the world

Friday, April 28, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Optional Q&A 4 p.m.

IHM Motherhouse
Maxis Community Room
610 W. Elm Ave.
Monroe, Michigan 48162

Enter through the main doors facing Elm Ave.

Nature as model, mentor and teacher: A BIOMIMICRY RETREAT

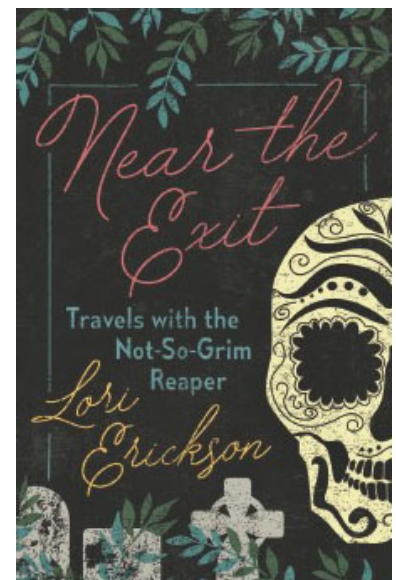


April 17 - 21, 2023

Morning sessions: 10:30-noon
Afternoon sessions: 2:30-4 p.m.
Evening sessions Tuesday
and Thursday: 6-7 p.m.

The retreat will
end at 3 p.m. April 21.

Doors open 30 minutes
before sessions begin.





The Marian Board of Directors and the IHM Leadership Council announce Heather Greig Sofran '96 as the new president of Marian High School, effective July 1, 2023. Following an extensive national search, Mrs. Sofran will succeed Sister Lenore Pochelski, IHM, and become the first laywoman and alumna to lead the school in its 64-year history.

Mrs. Sofran is committed to service within the Catholic community as an alumna, administrator, educator, and parent. A proud member of Marian's Class of 1996, her understanding of upholding Marian's mission is paramount. While a student at Marian, she earned academic and athletic honors that would lead to a full athletic scholarship to play volleyball at Bowling Green State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a concentration in science. She continued her post-graduate studies at Marygrove College earning her Master in the Art of Teaching with a Summa Cum Laude distinction.

Mrs. Sofran will join Marian at a significant time in the school's governance as we transition from religious to lay leadership and from a Head of School model to a President-Principal model. As president, Mrs. Sofran will oversee all business aspects of the institution, including visioning, oversight of the new five-year Strategic Plan, admission, finance, fundraising, human resources, and marketing. With Mrs. Sofran filling the new role of president, Marian also announces Mrs. Stacey Cushman, the current Academic Dean, as the school's principal. Mrs. Cushman, a 15-year Marian veteran in education and administration at Marian with several academic certifications, continues to provide the institutional foundation and the day-to-day affairs of the school that will help make this a seamless transition.

As Sr. Lenore retires from Marian at the end of June, we are deeply grateful for her dedicated leadership these last 31 years. Her accomplishments are forever etched into Marian's footprint, but it will be her leadership and devotion throughout this time that will be her lasting legacy. We are eager to continue Marian's progress in developing our nationally competitive students in a faith-based environment. Mrs. Sofran's connection to this community, her deep faith, and her interpersonal skills will foster the traditions, relationships, and practices that will enrich our Marian culture and maintain our high standard of academic excellence. Mrs. Sofran's energy and forward-thinking mindset will bring Marian to the next stage of our journey in defining excellence as the premier Catholic college preparatory school for young women. Join us as we welcome Mrs. Sofran back to Marian!

In Memoriam

Richard A. Carbott, IHM Associate
January 8, 1930 - Feb. 15, 2023



2023 President's Distinguished Service Award Honoree Sharon Holland, IHM

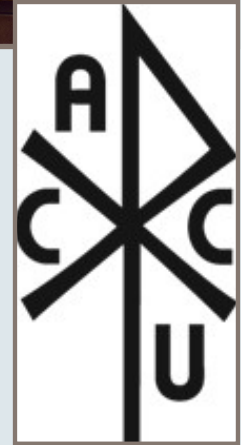
Sharon Holland, IHM, is this year's recipient of the Presidents Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities for her contributions to Catholic higher education. Criteria for this award include personal service of exceptional quality and significant promotion of Catholic higher education through public advocacy in addition to the advancement of Catholic higher education through philanthropy or voluntary development activities.

Sister Sharon spent 20 years in the Vatican as an attorney in canon law. A woman leader in the Vatican, she primarily helped religious institutes update their constitutions to reflect the changes in Vatican II. She collaborated with the LCWR leadership to bring an end to the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by the Vatican to a meaningful resolution. In her quiet and

humble manner, she shares that "through her work she has contributed to the future." Sister Sharon is a source of wisdom and grace to the church and to the world.



View Sister Sharon accepting the award [here](#).



Save-the-date

The 27th annual IHM Sisters' Royal Blue Classic will be held Monday, June 19, at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth, Michigan. This signature event offers 9- and 18-hole golfing opportunities for women's, men's, and mixed teams.

Experience the Royal Blue Classic

- Continental breakfast at registration
- Beverage carts
- Grilled lunch
- Hors d'oeuvres reception, awards presentation and buffet dinner
- Contests, prizes and giveaways
- Award-winning golf course
- Unlimited use of driving range and putting green
- A fun-filled day of golf and friendship

Last year we raise \$92,894 in support of IHM ministries. Thanks to every friend, sponsor, volunteer and golfer who helped us exceed our goal and make lasting memories.

For information on sponsorship and advertising opportunities or to donate an item to the balloon raffle, please contact Emily Oetting at 734-740-9861 or eoetting@ihmsisters.org



Then and Now

Sister Helen Ingles

Helen grew up on Detroit's east side, near the Detroit River, the youngest child of Edward and Enid Ingles. Both of her parents were from small towns on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River and had come to Detroit for employment. Family, school and parish filled most of her days, with frequent visits to relatives "up home."

She followed Ted, Ann, Joan and Jim in attending St. Martin Grade and High Schools. It was there that she met the IHM Sisters. Her parents had several relatives in religious life, including Aunt Gertie (Sister Mary Virginia, RSM in Buffalo, New York), so her decision to join the IHMs was supported, though there was no pressure either way.



One memory that sticks out from formation days came on her 18th birthday, one week after her entrance into the Postulate. After their first day of silence, they were invited out to the Knoll for a picnic, highlighted with a birthday cake provided by the Ingles family.

After student teaching at St. Joseph, Monroe, she taught middle grades at Gesu Elementary and St. Columban for three years, followed by teaching math for nine years at Marian and four years at Luke M. Powers in Flint. She reluctantly left teaching to serve as Treasurer of the Northwest Province for six years, followed by nine years in the Congregational Business Office as General Treasurer and Director of Financial Services. She found this a challenging and fulfilling ministry, learning from master teachers and discovering new skills in the process. [\(continued\)](#)

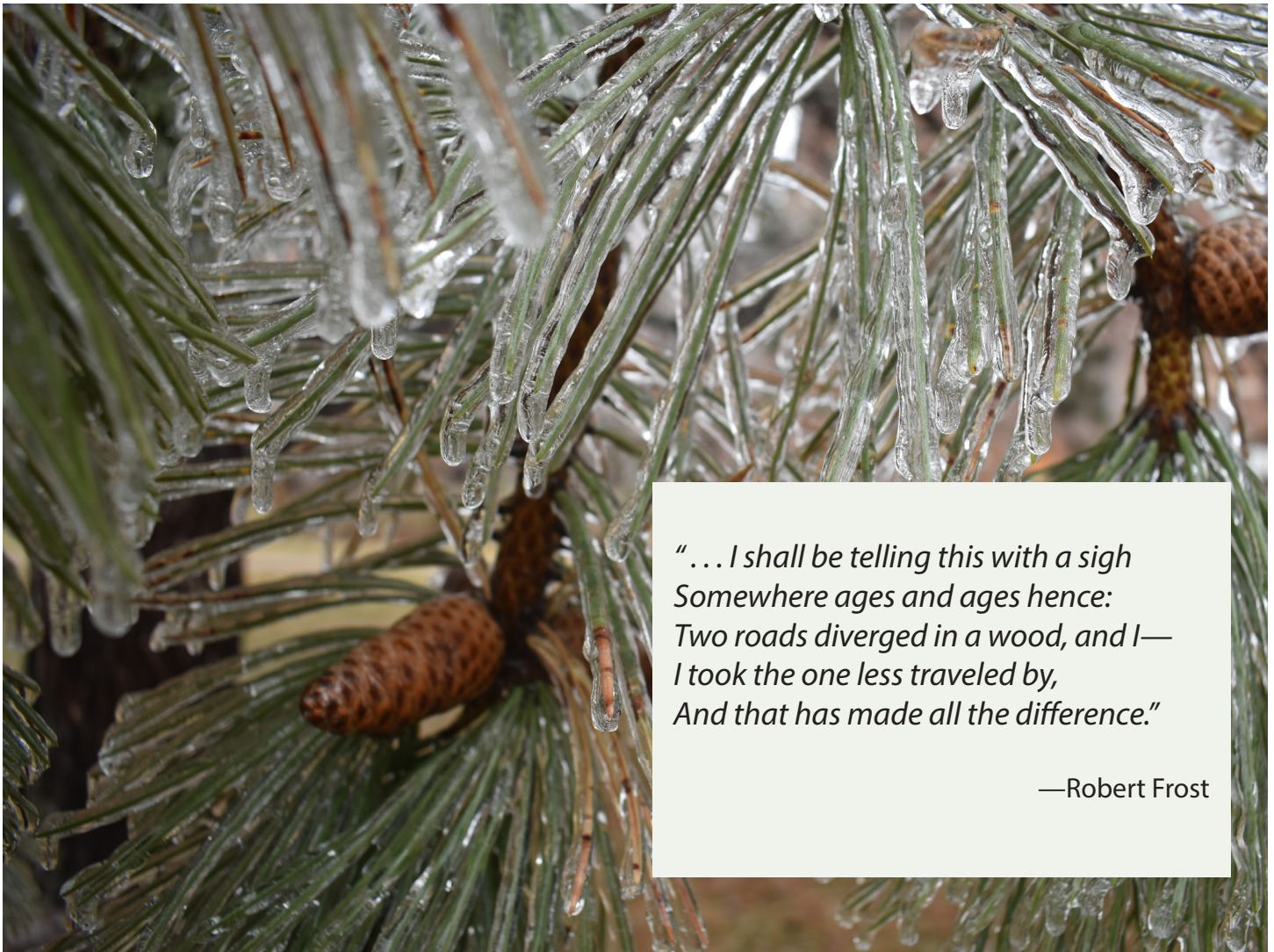
Sister Margaret Gaffney

Frank and Margaret Gaffney lived in Akron, Ohio with their children. The oldest, a girl, died soon after birth. She was followed by Frank, Joan, Margaret and Michael. The family belonged to St. Vincent's Parish, which had been staffed by IHMs; but, before Margaret began first grade, they were replaced by Dominican Sisters. After the sixth grade, her parents wanting her to have the same good IHM education as they did, transferred her to St. Mary for grades 7-12.



During this time, Margaret participated in a variety of sports and social activities. She also struggled back and forth with a call to join the IHM Sisters. She discussed her quandary with Sister Marie Edward Patton who helped her discern. Over her years there, she had come to understand the basics of social justice by participating in Sodality. She also felt drawn to the IHM's prayerful spirit. So, Margaret made the decision to join IHM after graduation.

After formation at the Motherhouse, following the practice at the time of staying only a few years at a "mission," Margaret taught in six schools from 1954-71. From 1954-1960, she had primary grades at St. Frederick Pontiac, St. Raymond Detroit and St. Mary Mt. Morris. Then, in 1960, she was assigned to go out of state, first to St. Michael Miami and then, in 1966, to St. Mark Cleveland. It was there that she took part in social action demonstrations. In 1969, she returned to Michigan to teach at St. Joseph and Erie, as well as [\(continued\)](#)



*"... I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."*

—Robert Frost



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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