



IHM SISTERS E-NEWS

Joan Mumaw retires from *Friends in Solidarity* By Jane Herb, IHM

I remember the day clearly. Shortly after my installation as President of the IHM community in 2012, Joan asked to meet with me. We had lunch together and I can picture the table where Joan shared her desire to minister with *Solidarity* in South Sudan. My reflections are through the lens of the IHM mission and history. Our co-founder Fr. Louis Florent Gillet, CSsR, said, "I desire to be everywhere when I see so many needs." Joan believed this to the core of her being. After serving for 16 years in Africa, Joan said, "African blood runs through my veins." Such was her passion as she desired to minister, serving the people of South Sudan. On her Ministry Commitment form in 2012, Joan indicated that South Sudan is the "newest and poorest country of our world."

Education has been the foundation of the IHM congregation, serving in schools and taking to heart education as a core value in whatever we do.

Joan has exemplified this as she sought to educate the people of the United States about the needs of the people of South Sudan. Through her networking, relational and collaborative skills, Joan desired to partner with others, recognizing that we are one global human family. She was passionate about the ministries in South Sudan: These were teacher training, health care training,



Friends in Solidarity held a retirement party for Joan on March 30, 2023.

pastoral initiatives and creating sustainable farming projects.

Article 10 of the IHM Constitutions states, "With Jesus we share the joys and hopes, the griefs and anguish of all our sisters and brothers in the human family. ... We respond to [the cry of the poor and abandoned] through various ministries." Joan lives the preferential option for the poor through her life, particularly through her dedication to *Solidarity* with South Sudan and *Friends in Solidarity*. Joan knew in both these ministries that she was walking into uncharted territories and made her way by walking forward into the Sudan.

Joan believed in her heart and lived the words of the IHM mission statement, we seek "to create a culture of peace and right relationship among ourselves, with the Church and with the whole Earth community." I had the opportunity to speak with Pat Murray, ibvm, during a recent visit to Rome. Pat shared these thoughts, *...(next page)*

“During these many years, Joan has collaborated with *Solidarity* and South Sudan (Rome) then traveled to South Sudan. Her insight and passion helped her to develop creative ways of keeping the needs of South Sudan visible as new emergencies surfaced in different parts of the world. She has been tireless in advocating for the people and she has given the very best of herself and invited others to support this work and mission. I am writing on my behalf to thank Joan but also on behalf of the Executive Board of the UISG to thank her for her many years of service and dedication.”

mission of *Friends in Solidarity*. Sr. Theresa Maxis, our co-founder, who came from the Oblate Sisters of Providence, believed that “God has provided, does provide and will provide.” Joan believes deeply in this and has said that if this is the work of God, resources will come. While Joan’s address may change, her passion for this ministry has not and will not change.

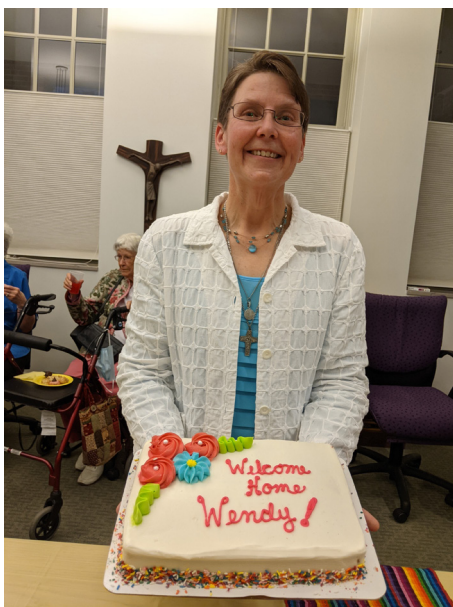


Fr. Gillet said, “I began without thinking of the future of the work, leaving it to God alone to bless and make it prosper, if it were pleasing to him and useful for the good of others.” We have all heard the phrase, “No mission, no money!” Joan will continue to be passionate about the

Congratulations to employee Wendy Bair on becoming Catholic

By Annette St- Amour, IHM

Wendy Bair, the vivacious and enthusiastic housekeeper on third-floor healthcare, became a full member of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil held at the IHM Motherhouse Chapel April 8. Many of our IHM community witnessed Wendy making her Profession of Faith, her confirmation and receiving the Eucharist.



Wendy’s interest was sparked by conversations with several Sisters whose rooms she cleans daily. IHM Sisters Sharon DeFever, Eileen Houlihan, Dorothy Diederichs and Pat Frost became her sponsors. In October Wendy began more formal weekly instruction with Sister Annette St-Amour. She has been eager to learn about the many “layers” of meaning in the symbols she notices in the Motherhouse Chapel. She absorbed the meaning of the priest’s gestures at Sunday worship and the words and actions rooted in Scripture that enhance Catholic belief.

Wendy became a Carleton Missionary Baptist Church member at 16 and was baptized in the River Raisin. The Bible was a source of strength and consolation to Wendy. Now in her newly chosen path of faith, she finds rich meaning, offering motivation and deep joy in knowing God’s Faithful love. She celebrates that

with a joyful faith community of IHM Sisters and friends at their weekly Sunday Liturgy. Congratulations Wendy!

The Memory Keeper of Kyiv

By Erin Litteken

Reviewed by library staff

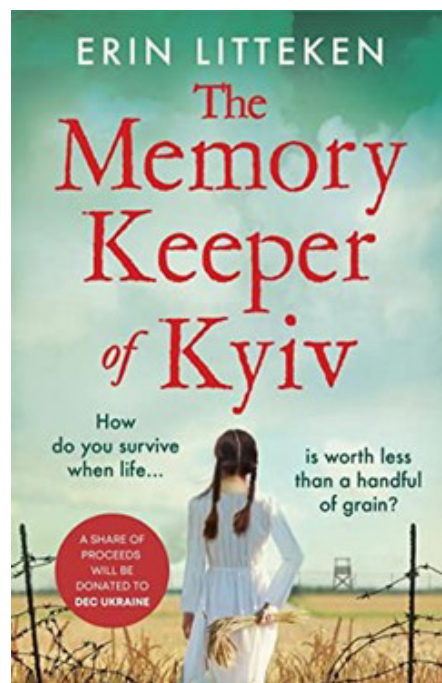
It is pure coincidence that Erin Litteken's 2022 novel, *The Memory Keeper of Kyiv*, came out just months after Russia invaded Ukraine. She had spent nearly 10 years working on this debut novel, scratching out time for writing sessions between her work and raising two children. Several times she thought about putting it away and forgetting the project, but it was too personal and the Ukrainian history too important to be untold.

Growing up in rural Illinois, Litteken heard stories about the difficulties of life in Eastern Europe from her Ukrainian grandmother, who was then living with her family. These family stories became an impetus for Litteken to research more about Ukraine and its history. Her research led her to the time when Stalin undertook a brutal campaign to force Ukraine to collectivize its farming by employing an intentional, human-made famine in which an estimated 3.9 million people perished in Ukraine from 1932-1933. It is known as the Holodomor (death by hunger).

Litteken reimagines the story of these years by creating a dual-timeline novel. In alternating chapters, we learn the story of Katya and her family as they are thrust into the horror of the Holodomor.

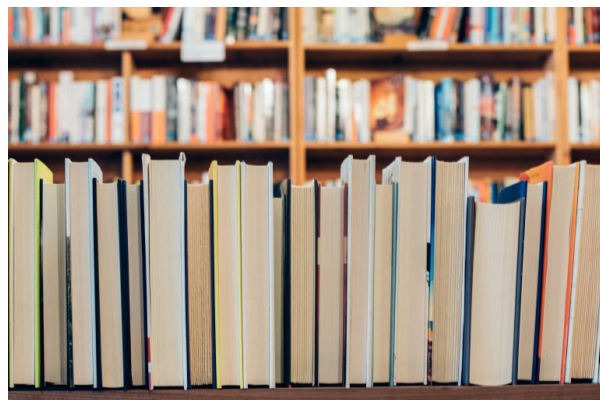
We also follow the story of Cassie, in the United States in the early 2000s, who is mourning her husband's death in a car accident the previous year, leaving their five-year-old daughter mute. Cassie is finally persuaded to move in with her ailing grandmother.

The "spine" of the two stories emerges when Cassie discovers her grandmother's journal. Written in Ukrainian, the journal also has a story. It was a gift with an accompanying request –



For as long as I've known you, you've been writing down your stories... Now, you'll have a real book so you can record what's happening to us, what they are doing to us, so someday our children and their children will know our story. Include the sad and joyous parts... but if stretching your imagination and writing down your dreams is what you need to do... then do that.

A nation's suffering due to the Russian invasion did not begin in February 2022, nor with Crimea in 2014. *The Memory Keeper of Kyiv* opens another window into the story of resilience and the long-suffering of a proud people whose national salute is "Glory to Ukraine!"



The School That Works for Immigration Justice

By Kim Redigan

Five Detroit Cristo Rey (DCR) student leaders from DCR's Strangers No Longer Circle of Support joined more than 160 Catholics in Lansing Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, to advocate for legislation that would restore the right of individuals to obtain a driver's license regardless of immigration status. Drive Safe Advocacy Day was organized by Strangers No Longer (SNL), a statewide Catholic-based coalition of parish and school Circles of Support that accompany immigrants, educate and advocate for just immigration policies.



DCR's delegation was part of a team that met with Rep. Tyrone Carter's staff in the morning along with other constituents from his district. DCR students shared their personal stories and presented information about the importance of passing legislation allowing Michigan undocumented residents to drive. Before going to Rep. Carter's office, the students joined other immigration advocates in the Gallery, where the work of SNL was acknowledged from the Senate floor. From there, the DCR team was invited to join another delegation that had scheduled a visit to Rep. Abraham Aiyash's office. DCR students shared compelling stories rooted in their own lived experience. Deeply moved, Rep. Aiyash invited one student, Kaylee, to return to Lansing to testify at the public hearing that will be scheduled when the bill to restore licenses is introduced. DCR is part of a Detroit-area Strangers No Longer network of Catholic high schools and youth groups who are a tight-knit community of student advocates who call themselves Youth in Action for Immigration. These students gather annually for a large conference and meet yearly via Zoom. Detroit Cristo Rey hosted the first two Youth in Action for Immigration conferences. Each conference featured a full agenda that began with prayer and a review of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Last year's Youth in Action for Immigration Conference included icebreaker activities, a keynote speaker, student presentations, strategy sessions, a video on climate change and migration and school-led stations that allowed students to explore community resources, immersion trips, cultural work, social media advocacy and more. This year's conference, [Si' Se Puede: Working for Immigration Justice](#) was held March 31 - the birthday of Cesar Chavez - at Divine Child High School. Eleven DCR students attended and presented a video they made about Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

Youth in Action for Immigration is also recruiting students to join a July immersion trip to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Traverse City, the official location of the Hispanic Ministry of the Diocese of Gaylord. Students will spend their days learning from migrants and those who accompany them in Northern Michigan as well as meeting with immigrant attorneys and agencies. DCR is planning on two students joining the delegation. DCR's Circle of Support will also be attending and helping out at SNL's Annual Dinner in Warren, MI, on Sunday, April 23 and marching in the Cinco de Mayo parade. Of course, the work for the Drive SAFE legislation will continue.



Students will spend their days learning from migrants and those who accompany them in Northern Michigan as well as meeting with immigrant attorneys and agencies. DCR is planning on two students joining the delegation. DCR's Circle of Support will also be attending and helping out at SNL's Annual Dinner in Warren, MI, on Sunday, April 23 and marching in the Cinco de Mayo parade. Of course, the work for the Drive SAFE legislation will continue.

Celebrating relationships

By Mary Katherine Hamilton

This past February, Sandra Schneiders, IHM, presented a keynote lecture, *Living the Present with Passion*, during the Centennial Celebration of the Religious Sisters of the Heart of Mary (RSHM) in Los Angeles. Sandra's close friendship with the RSHM Community over many years made being present as California and Mexico celebrated 100 years as RSHM's western region much more special.

Sandra's travel to California also allowed her to visit the Jesuit School of Theology (JST) and meet with colleagues and friends in Berkeley, with whom she could not say farewell in person because of COVID. While there, the JST faculty hosted a celebratory dinner for Sandra, during which stories abounded. Sandra was JST's longest-serving professor and perhaps the most recognized worldwide for her work on Scripture and spirituality.

When Sandra began at JSTB (then known as the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkley) in 1976, she was the first woman, first non-ordained and first non-Jesuit faculty member.



Looking around the room at the diversity and number of women on the JST faculty now, Sandra reminded them how amazing it is to be a part of JST—noting that in the decades after the Second Vatican Council, when so much was happening in theology and the Church, JST was a daring experiment of collaborative lay-Jesuit formation for ministry and the study of theology. “We were a part of history,” she said. “It was as significant as the Reformation and we were there.” Then smiling, she added, “And the collaborative is still ongoing.”

Save The Date

Reality of Grief: living every day with loss

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Depending on how we care for ourselves, grief can become life-giving or an overwhelming burden.

During our evening together, we'll explore ways to journey through grief, engage in conversation and



begin a personal project that helps us reflect on our loved one. This “legacy project” will be something we can take home and continue to create.

The presenters are Judith Bonini, IHM and Cristy Smith. The registration fee is \$20 and the registration deadline is May 16. Contact River House IHM Spirituality Center at riverhouse@ihmsisters.org, 734-240-5494 or register [online](#).

Catholic Sisters Week 2023

By Candyce Rekart, IHM

This year for Catholic Sisters Week March 8-14, we had record Facebook viewings thanks to our diligent Communications office staff and the “stars” of each day’s IHM challenge. On our social media pages (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), we challenged others to join IHM Sisters and Associates in everyday practices that make a difference.

Challenges included:

- ✓ Volunteer time and talent in your local community.
- ✓ Support, attend and stand with those who will speak up for social justice issues.
- ✓ Live sustainably, recycle and conserve water.
- ✓ Pick up a book, newspaper or article for your life learning and enjoyment.
- ✓ Find the time and place that helps you touch into your inner being where contemplation, compassion and solidarity thrive.
- ✓ Take time in nature, care for the Earth and enjoy its beauty.
- ✓ Invite someone with whom you seldom engage into a conversation by calling, texting or sending a note. Share a gesture and a moment of caring.

The statistics at the end of that week show a whopping 11,225 post reaches and 1,456 post engagements, which include reaction



CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

(using the icons provided), sharing or clicking further and 62 comments. “So important that we keep challenging ourselves,” commented one person and “Always knew those IHM Sisters were smart!” “Way to show the world some love.” “Thanks be to God for IHM.” Other comments were directed toward the “star” of the day whose picture accompanied the challenge: Sisters Anne Wisda, Janet Ryan, Mary Ann Markel, Barbara Stanbridge, Marianne Gaynor, Nancy Sylvester, Margaret Chapman, Audra Turnbull, Beth Wood, Lisandra Pedraza, Betty Leon, Becky Vonderhaar, Candy Rekart and IHM Associate Barb Bacci-Yugovich,. Those comments have been passed along to the person to whom they were addressed. Thanks, stars!

Just because we have said “Goodbye” to Catholic Sisters Week until 2024 does not mean we no longer challenge ourselves nor invite others to join us in living up to them.

Are you up for the challenge?

Remembering
Charlotte Walby, IHM
Dec. 6, 1916- March 24, 2023

Her candle burned
brightly for 106 years.



Then and Now

Sister Joan Mumaw

Sister Joan Mumaw hails from Marshall, a rural community in southwestern Michigan. She grew up in a happy household with three brothers and a sister, born over 17 years. People in this area are humble, hard-working, family-oriented people of faith with high aspirations for goodness, truth, compassion and justice for the poor. Sister Joan always tries to embody these attributes. Meeting the IHMs in her early years at St. Mary's Grade School gave her a sense of Church. She learned of its mission to celebrate the singular love for all God's people. Seeds of a missionary vocation were planted early while reading a copy of *Field Afar*, the Maryknoll magazine, which she found at her grandmother's house.



Searching for and reflecting on ways to learn more about what makes us human and listening to an interior call, Joan entered the IHMs after a year of college in Ann Arbor. After graduating from Marygrove, Monroe campus in 1965, she began teaching in elementary schools in Detroit. She taught at Immaculata High School while pursuing a degree in cultural anthropology at Wayne State University. Joan worked in the Archives with women whom she honors as mentors in her pursuit of the goals that the Congregation sets as we walk the walk of pilgrims. It was not long before others recognized the greatness of her heart and the depth of her love for the Community. She has served in IHM Leadership and as Provincial of the IHM overseas missions. [*\(continued\)*](#)

Sister Rose Mary Sam



Sister Rose Mary Sam happily received her parents' names—Romanus and Mary- as Sister Mary Romanus when she entered the novitiate. Her parents were Lebanese immigrants working to give a good life to their family. Many opened neighborhood grocery stores with loyal customers. The advent of supermarkets brought competition. Many Lebanese settled near St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church and later moved into Latin Catholic parishes where children attended Catholic schools and received a religious education. Rose Mary and her four siblings knew of the generosity of their father and uncle, anonymously leaving boxes of food at the homes of needy families. These gestures won great respect among family and friends. While Rose Mary was still young, her parents died prematurely—first father; four years later, mother. It was a time for her and her siblings to care for one another. The values her parents instilled allowed them to look after one another and survive this difficult time in their lives

Sister Rose Mary studied at Marygrove and Laval University in Quebec. Sister Marie Constance encouraged her to change from a music major to French. This change alleviated the heavy music demands and allowed her more time for family. Even after changing her major, Rose Mary continued her musicianship of violin and viola. She played in the Grosse Pointe Symphony String Ensemble for weddings, parishes and senior citizens. [*\(continued\)*](#)



Marygrove Minute

Calling all Marygrove Alums!

**Save the Date:
Sept. 16, 2023**

The 2023 All-Class Reunion of Marygrove College will take place on the campus of the Marygrove Conservancy Saturday, Sept. 16. All Alumni are welcome, from any year, especially those with a 5-year anniversary of graduation, those ending in 3 and 8. This is an excellent opportunity to meet friends and celebrate our legacy of education at Marygrove. You don't want to miss this!

There will be a luncheon in Madame Cadillac Hall with guest speakers from the Marygrove Conservancy and the Jubilee Class of 1973. Other activities will be posted on the Alumni web page.

Besides recognizing our special relationship with the Marygrove Conservancy and The School at Marygrove, we celebrate the inaugural graduating class from the high school! Representatives will be on hand to update us on The School's progress in its first four years. Kudos to the Class of 2023! Commencement is on May 31, 2023, at Detroit's Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

Your Reunion Committee is looking for volunteers and welcomes input on this event. Marygrove, then and now, we salute you!

The reunion committee members:

- Chair, Liz Poliuto Loria '70, lorializ@gmail.com, 248-318-0012
- Co-Chairs, Lou Koss Moss '73, Loumoss1@hotmail.com, 586-873-1645
- Jeanne Currier Vagnetti '73, jeannevagnetti@gmail.com, 231-527-8673

Invitations and registration info will be via email, so be sure to update your email with us at alumni@marygroveconservancy.org, or you can email Alumni Board member Frances Simmons directly at francesimmmons@prodigy.net.

Other notes of interest to Marygrove Alumni:

Kudos and congratulations to Marygrove

MAT alum (2005) Heather Greig Sofran, a Marian 1996 alumna who was recently appointed as Principal of Marian High School, Detroit. Please see more information posted on the [Marygrove Alumni & Friends Facebook page](#).



*To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:
 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;
 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;
 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones;*
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Are you looking to give back and have fun? Join us for the 27th Annual IHM Sisters' Royal Blue Classic golf outing and you can do just that! There are many ways you can support this signature event. Contact us today to learn more.



ROYAL BLUE
Classic
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023

Questions? Call 734-240-9860 or development@ihmsisters.org.

- ◇ 27th annual signature golf event
- ◇ Continental breakfast, grilled lunch and dinner
- ◇ 18-hole and 9-hole packages available for women's, men's and mixed teams
- ◇ Exciting raffles
- ◇ Funds raised benefit IHM ministries
- ◇ A day of fun with friends and sisters
- ◇ Award-winning golf course
- ◇ Longest putt, closest to the pin and straightest drive skill holes
- ◇ PLINKO game hole


FOX HILLS GOLF AND BANQUET CENTER • PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN




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.



Safe secure [online giving](#) is available for your convenience.



Submit your [prayer requests](#) to the IHM Sisters.



[IHM Sisters](#)



[ihmsisters](#)



[ihmsisters](#)