

Summer 2017

Volume 1, Issue 2

A collection of recent discoveries and activities in the IHM Archives



How and Why to Be a Sister

To the right are the cover and several images from a booklet (circa 1950s) that was meant to give girls an informed picture of life as an IHM postulant, novice and sister. Could they imagine themselves teaching in a classroom? “There lies a world to conquer – for Christ, your King,” the booklet says.

Even those girls who might not want to teach could have important work to do in support of the IHM’s community of 1,100 teachers. Those jobs included office work, nursing, cooking, sewing, supervising dormitories, tending orphans. The life of a professed Sister included prayer, work and play, the brochure explained. Among the 20 photos used, Sisters are shown at the chapel altar and in the Convent Garden; working with children and preparing a



meal, and enjoying painting, music, gardening and croquet on their recreation time. Today IHM Sisters still serve, minister, comfort, create and teach – although we haven’t seen a croquet game recently.

Facebook comments:

Margaret Wade: “Croquet will be this summer in the court yard. The Wellness committee is setting one up for sisters and employees to play.”

Marcia Olszewski: “12 years of IHMs!”



A hobby for free moments

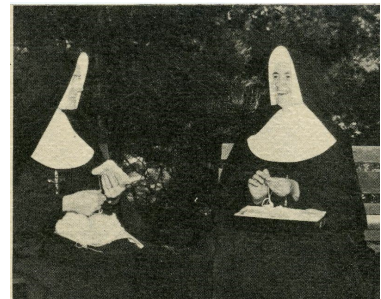
Lynn Sims: “I had 2 Aunts and a Cousin that were IHM Nuns at the Motherhouse!!!! Will always LOVE (and miss) that most WONDERFUL PLACE!!!!”

Marge Shubert: “IHM sisters are wonderful dedicated women. I look forward to a rousing game of croquet this summer on the lawn.”

Barb Iott Chuck VanVleet: “I went there



A decisive moment in an exciting tournament



The art of friendly conversation over the needle

my freshman and sophomore year. Loved the nuns.”

Nancy Lee Rose: “Wonderful memories of the dedicated nuns in my life.”

Valerie Knoche: “Blessed are we IHMS”

A Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle Philosophy

We are often asked what happened to all of those original royal blue and white habits after the IHM Sisters changed to modified habits and later contemporary street clothes following Vatican II in the 1960s. We have to admit they are not available for display because they were repurposed or recycled. Archives documents include instructions for the Sisters on how to cut down the long habits to allow for new styles. One piece of their wardrobe was the heavy wool capes, pictured here, worn instead of coats during



The groundbreaking for St. Mary Academy's auditorium, March 19, 1958. Left to right: Sr. Miriam Raymo, Sr. Juliana Bruin, Mother Teresa McGivney, Msgr. Walter Marron, Mother Anna Marie Grix, Sr. Thomasina Gignac, and Sr. Mary Hubert Manion.

winter. In 1960, IHM Sisters sent their old cloaks and capes to Europe. Mother Theophila wrote

back from the Ursulines in Breslau: "The arrival of your package with pieces of material made us very

happy.... Since we were driven out by the Russians we had to leave behind all our possessions. ...Your generous gift is a great help to us in our situation." Some of the material was sent on to "poor Germans" who had escaped from East Germany.

A few Facebook comments:

Ken McBride: "Wish they still wore them. At least the veils.."

Mary Ann Kelly: "They probably disagree with that."

Mystery photo: Language Lab



This wonderful photo (circa 1950s?) is in the IHM Archives without a description. It appears to be a language lab perhaps at Marygrove College, Detroit. Most of the students are IHM Sisters. Why are there two women with cameras (right) and why is one using the universal sign for "shhh"? and if they have the cameras, who's taking the photo? Do you know more? Contact Deb Saul, ext. 321, or dsaul@ihmsisters.org

From Facebook friend Anne Crane, IHM: "Found out a few things from Marie André Walsh who was my French professor at Marygrove. Instructor is Antoinette Ruedisueli who taught French at Marygrove at one time (1962-76). Front right is Christine Hattendorf. Second right is Digna Pulaski. Back right is Ann Marilyn Glogoss. Second left is Chrysostom Truka."

Families Make a Difference

The IHM Archives often is used by outside researchers working on anything from grade school reunions to doctoral dissertations. And sometimes visitors contribute surprises, such as this gift from two researchers from Gesu Parish in Detroit. (Gesu was one of the largest IHM-staffed schools.) This wonderful photo shows the Rabaut family, circa 1960, and includes,

left to right: Celeste Rabaut IHM; Stella Rabaut IHM; their parents, Stella and U.S. Rep. Louis Rabaut; Martha Marie Rabaut IHM, and their brother, the Rev. Francis Rabaut, SJ.

Along with teaching, the sisters had other interesting missions over the years: Celeste (Sister Palmyre) was the IHM archivist, Sister Stella Maris was principal at Gesu Grade School in Detroit from

1971 to 2000 and Sister Martha Marie was Novitiate directress in

Monroe and directress of African Novices in Natal, South Africa.



Seasonal Delights: Easter Lilies

The Easter lily is the traditional flower for Easter Sunday, the day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Native to the southern islands of Japan, the lily has been grown commercially in the

United States for more than a century.

In this photo, Sister Audrey (Faustina) Crepeau (left) and Sister Catherine (Mechtilde) Kerwin gather Easter lilies in the 1950s or early 1960s.



Hoops Champions, 1925



Over the years, IHM sisters and schools have produced a number of accomplished athletes, championship teams and, of course, diehard sports fans. This photo shows the girls Detroit City basketball champions for 1925, from Holy Rosary High School. The team

included two future IHMs: Celia Keating (Sister Therese) and Blanche Sipes (Sister Marie Chantal) sitting on the floor next to one another (first two girls left to right). They graduated in 1925 and entered the IHM community that September.

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

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Since 2000, all IHM sisters have been encouraged to submit individual chronicles to the IHM Archives. These records about your own life and ministry over the course of a year or more add breadth and depth to the documented history of the IHM Sisters. Your contribution will enrich the future record of the IHM, so please be sure your life's story is included in the community's story.



Marvel at the Beauty of Craftsmanship

Sister Claudia Carlen received this extraordinary Bible in the early 1950s when she was the librarian for Marygrove College. The Bible was the gift of William C. Hollands, the

superintendent of the bindery at the University of Michigan. Mr. Hollands had lovingly who did the binding and the fore-edge combination of gold embossing when the book is closed (top right) and a painting of the Wise Men when the pages are “fanned” (bottom right). The book contains 1,604 pages of Old Testament text and 573 pages of New Testament.

