



Marygrove history to merge into IHM archives

**By Jennifer Meacham
Archivist**

Because of all the changes at Marygrove, the decision was made recently to transfer all of their historical records from the Marygrove Library to the IHM Archives. Welcome to Monroe.

I spent about ten hours over the course of two days in December reviewing their holdings, boxing loose items, and designating which documents, photographs, and artifacts would be moved to their new home. On a bitterly cold morning in January, three men from Steven's Moving Co. in Toledo unloaded nearly 400 boxes of records from their truck to the empty tables awaiting them here. Much of the collection is now housed on new mobile shelving units in a repurposed workroom at the back of the Archives, and we're working to find space



Shown are just some of the hundreds of Marygrove boxes delivered to IHM Archives.

for the 50+ banker's boxes still out on the tables.

When Marygrove shifted its focus to graduate education I had a feeling this might happen and I couldn't help but laugh at the irony of it – for me, personally, that is. I spent 14 years as a librarian at Marygrove. I had studied archival administration in graduate school and wanted to take charge of

the Marygrove Archives when the last archivist left in 2008. But due to staffing issues it was decided that there would no longer be a designated archivist at Marygrove. I became the contact person for the collection, but never had the formal role as keeper of the Marygrove Archives.

Until now. I had to leave Marygrove in order to take over their archives!

I had long felt that gaining the position of IHM Archivist brought me full-circle professionally (because I first applied for this job way back in 2002). Now, inheriting the care of the Marygrove collection just reinforces my belief that it all happened just as it should have and I, like these 400 hundred boxes, ended up exactly where I needed to be.

Letter to the Archives: from a former student

Jan. 16, 2019

We are hoping you will accept the enclosed painting. It was presented to me two years ago as a birthday gift. The artist is Jack McAlear who lives in Flushing, Michigan.

My husband, Joe, and I meet Jack for breakfast every Friday morning to sort out the week's national/international crises. Jack learned that I had been educated for 16 years by IHMs; 12 years at St. Matthew's, Flint and another 4 years at Marygrove. (Class of 63). My husband, Joe, is also a product of IHM education graduating from Mt. Morris St. Mary's. (Class of 51). So, you understand why this painting of an IHM religious in the recognized dress has great significance for us. We treasure it, and the generous thought behind the gift. However, we are now trying to clean out things and simplify our lives by reducing our possessions – no matter how precious. Thus, we thought that perhaps the IHM motherhouse would be an appropriate resting place for this painting.

We hope you will accept this given, in part, for our gratitude to the IHMs for all they have given us and in preparing us to navigate the world. It's a small gesture of our appreciation and love. I've also included a financial contribution that I hope you will pass on to your development office.

A little about Jack McAlear – he is a retired teacher/professor who began his career teaching English/



Writing/Grammar in the Flint high schools, then had a long, distinguished career at Lansing Community College where he retired. In the meantime, he has become a well-known local artist and has shown at several galleries in the area along with my husband, who is a watercolor artist and teacher. Both are now in their 80s and still painting!

We send our best wishes. Please know that we think of the IHMs often, and fondly, and keep them in our prayers.

Joan [name redacted], Flint

Who was at St. Matthew, Flint, 1947-1959?

Mildred (Vincella) Baker

Francis Raphael Beaufait

Marie James Bennett

Mary Roch Carter

Sylvia (Marie Alethe) Duval

Mary Ellen (Helen Joseph) Ginty

Pauline (Marie Anita) Gorham

Ann (Kevin Marie) Hannon

Rita Hoban

Frances (Lucille) Hoy

Kathleen (Cephas) Murphy

Helen Cecile Schaner

Verita Scofield

Patrice Selby

Miriam Therese Steffin

Anne Marie (Ina) Wahl

Sisters reminded their life's work is important

Sister Gail Addis, IHM gift shop manager, has been on the receiving end of gifts lately in her new volunteer role as Archives liaison with the Sisters.

After 40 years spent mostly away from the Motherhouse, Sister Gail has spent the last four years catching up with the community's members, occasionally meeting individuals for the first time. With a master's degree in human relations, she spent her mission life in pastoral and parish ministry, 28 of those years in Oklahoma. She was pastoral administrator for St. Joseph Parish in Bay City from 2003 to 2014.

Last summer she joined the Archives team. Her main work has been to help Sisters sort through their documents, photos and artifacts to decide what should be given to Archives and when. She has met with 20 Sisters so far, some for only 30 minutes, some for a dozen hours or more. Each visit has played out in its own unique way.

"If I get to see someone at all, I consider it's a success. Being present as someone reviews their life is a gift," she said.

Most times, she is getting to know her Sisters in community

TIPS FROM SISTER GAIL:

- ◆ Don't assume what you have isn't important. This is your story and you are part of the IHM story.
- ◆ If you're not sure if it belongs in the Archives, err on the side that it DOES belong.
- ◆ If you have things you plan to give to your family, label it or place it in a box now with "family" clearly marked on it.
- ◆ Trust that we do want your heritage and that your contribution will be represented into the future.

and they are getting to know her. "I really love being back here and I love what I'm doing."

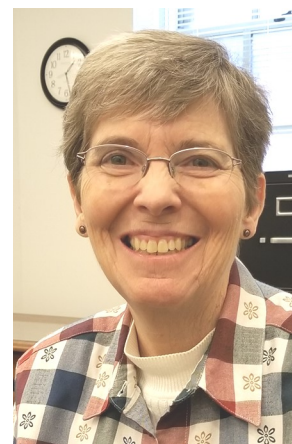
Archivist Jennifer Meacham said, "Gail is such a welcome addition to our team of volunteers. She fulfills a vital role by reaching out to Motherhouse residents to answer their questions about the Archives. And it makes my job much easier to have someone sort and categorize a sister's papers when they are handed over."

Besides her volunteer work for Archives and running the gift shop, Sister Gail also prepares a weekly prayer service for the residents of McGivney Way (memory care). "I never give that up, even for retreat."

Anyone who would like to talk with Sister Gail may contact her at the gift shop, call the gift shop at ext. 308, or call her home, 734-639-2278. A brochure listing details of what to offer to Archives also is available.

"We don't force anyone to give anything," she said. "We just want to make sure their heritage is honored and respected."

Jennifer agrees. "I know how much Gail enjoys what she's doing because it shows on her face whenever she talks about spending time with another sister to look at photos and hear her story. And that's what we're here to preserve – each sister's story."



What we typically take from individual Sisters:

- Chronicles and published works
- Family Genealogy
- Photos with IDs and dates

What we typically do not take:

- Scrapbooks of personal trips
- Collections not related to IHM history
- Copies of meeting agenda / reports

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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.

Facebook favorites: A popular recent Archives post

We can almost hear him saying, "Gee, Sister. You can't blame a guy for getting a little disheveled during recess...." Sister Jean Ann Healy taught in Detroit-area schools for decades, beginning in 1942 at St. Patrick's, Wyandotte. She also taught at St. Philip, Battle Creek; Holy Redeemer in Detroit, and St. Mary, Wayne, among others. Her last parish was St. Edith in Livonia. Sister Jean Ann died in 1997 at the age of 75.

A few of the comments from IHM Facebook followers

Anna Schmitt-Reichert This Sister was my Aunt, thank you for posting her history and fabulous picture. She was one strong Irish woman and was a great role model for us all!

Lynn Guarch-Pardo I was taught by IHMs in Miami, Florida, back in the 60's. They wore that exact wool habit, with no air conditioning in our classrooms! I have wonderful memories from that time.

Linda Knoth Gostinger She looks like a cool nun in her shades.

Margaret Wade I would have done the same thing on the playground.

