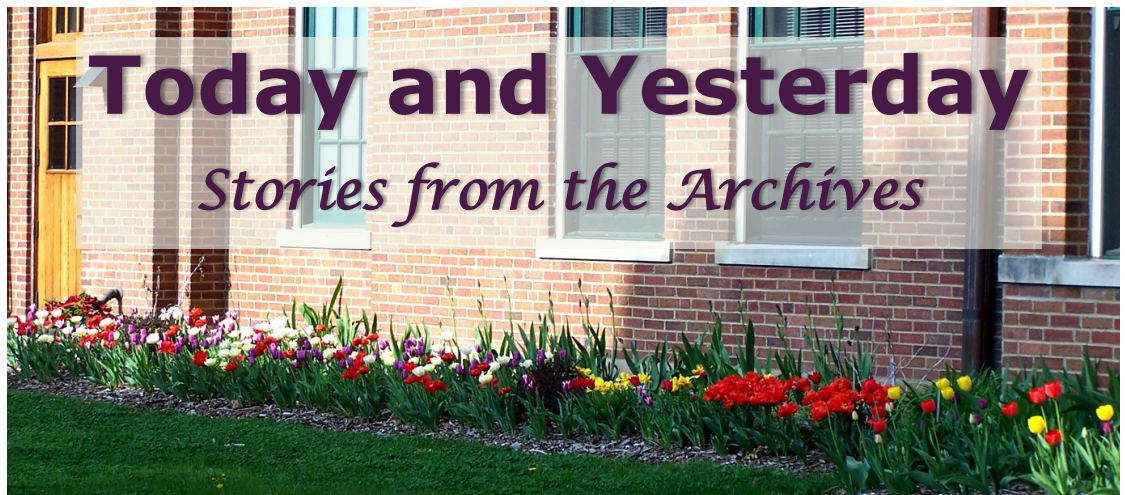


Spring 2022

Volume 5, Issue 3

A collection of recent discoveries and activities in the IHM Archives



Sister Margaret retires from 24-year ministry

It started in 1997 with Sister Mary Ann Untener saying, “We could use a little extra help” in Archives.

Sister Margaret Babcock never stopped that work until physical limitations caused her to request retirement in late summer, 2021. “I will always treasure the years I worked in Archives.”

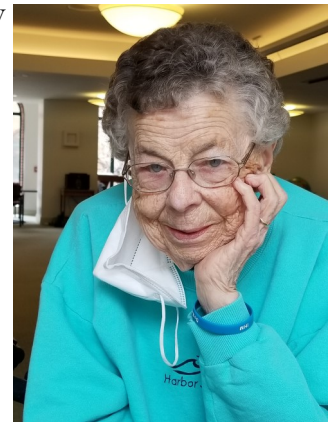
Although she did whatever tasks needed to be done, she became a specialist in handling the personal files of individual Sisters after their deaths. She grew to know the Sisters through the documentation of their lives.

After Sister Mary Ann, Archivist Donna Westley listed the essential pieces of information that must be kept in every Sister’s file: all legal and official documents, important dates, will, family records, obituary and memorial card, autobiographical information, education and health records, ministry list, awards and photos. “In Archives I learned more than you could

learn any other way.” She grew to treat each life with respect, confidentiality, honoring their contribution. “It’s important that we have a record of what they meant to the community in their time. You realize wherever there’s an IHM, you’re there. With most of them you can be very proud of their accomplishments.”

When other Sisters mention someone they didn’t know, Sister Margaret tells them, “Oh, you have no idea what you missed.” She said it bothers her that some Sisters think they haven’t done anything special.

“If they’ve taught a child, they’ve done a lot. Every life matters. They’ve all led beautiful lives.”



Archives display includes signs, symbols of the Lenten season



As we observe the season of Lent leading up to Good Friday, Sisters in the Motherhouse may visit the Archives display of crosses and crucifixes outside the H-Wing mailroom. Displayed in an antique cabinet, the items will be up until Easter.

One of the most elaborate crucifixes is from Ukraine (left). Also in the cabinet this month

is the large missionary crucifix carried by Father Gillet and dating to 1847.

Other items include crucifixes made from shell casings during World War I.

Displays in this case are refreshed several times a year by Archives Assistant Sister Diann Cousino using items from the IHM Archives collection.

Did you know: The most common IHM surnames

What would you guess to be the most common surnames among IHM sisters who entered and who stayed? Although the community's first members and language were French, the most common lineage is Irish. Here are the top three:

Murphy (14)

Irene (entered 1868)
Helena
Marie Isabel
Mary Herbert
John Berchmans
Marie Xavier
Ann Loretta
Venard
Ruth Ann (Theon)
Marie Gerald
Marie Lenore
Rosella (Providentia)
Marietta
Ann Marie (entered 1964)

Sullivan (13)

Lutegarde (entered 1877)
Patricia
Valeria
Theodora
Mary Aidan
Marie William
Anne Lucille
Margaret (Malachy)
Virginia (Mary Terence)
Angela
Genevieve (Mary Clifford)
Marie Sylvia
Janet (entered 1943)

Brennan (12)

Bertha (entered 1869)
Borgia
Blanche
Mary Berchmans
Alice
Adelaide
Ann Vincent
Mary (Armella)
Laetitia
Flora
Mary Jane (Jane Therese)
Margaret (Benedicta) (entered 1945)

Summer School 1964: No university too far for IHMs

**University of Michigan
St. Thomas Convent
Ann Arbor, Michigan**

**Sister Virgine
Sister Maria Alma
Sister Teresa Avila
Sister Benedictus
Sister John Fisher
Sister Hilda
Sister Ann Jerome
Sister Janice Marie
Sister Lucille Marie
Sister Herbert Mary
Sister Thomas Mary
Sister Regina Mercedes
Sister Mary Paulus
Sister Mary Remi
Sister John Vianney**

**Sister Angela
Sister Magdala**

The IHM commitment to education – both teaching and learning – is well-documented from its earliest days. The summer of 1964 was a busy one with 162 Sisters studying at 41 different locations.

Seventeen Sisters were studying at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (see list at left). Four were at Michigan State, including Ann Gabriel Kilsdonk, Mary Margaret Davis and Doreen Lynch, while four more – Letitia O'Connell, Joanita Duggan, Donna Hart and Eleanor Fitzgibbons – were living in Zimmerman Hall at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

The Sisters spread out quickly from there. Mary McDevitt, Joan Glisky and Martha Rabaut were among 11 IHMs at Marquette University, Milwaukee. Joyce Durosko was alone at St. Mary College in Winona and Chrysostom Turka was at the University of Montreal, likely working on her French. Clement Marie Zittel was in Salzburg, Austria, and Christiana Schwartz was at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Three Sisters were in Paris, two in Quebec and 23 in Puerto Rico. Florida, Massachusetts, Indiana, California, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Virginia, Missouri – IHMs were in classrooms everywhere that busy summer.

Big Move was major accomplishment

Motherhouse Sisters needed stamina, patience and a good sense of humor to get through the long months of disruption due to the total renovation of their home two decades ago. Moving so many Sisters from the Motherhouse to temporary spaces in St. Mary Center and then moving them back again took detailed planning and logistical precision. Remember January 2003?

- The community room was a “waiting area” for Sisters whose belongings were being moved to new rooms. Activities and snacks were provided for the long wait.
- Everything was tagged: Yellow – ground floor; red – main, etc. No tag? Leave it behind to be recycled!



A Sister makes her way through the temporary trappings of a construction zone. (Photo by Sister Anne Wisda)



Volunteers move the Archives (above). A special welcome awaited new arrivals (left) and notes of who was going where were posted (right).



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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 favorite: Summer Days

This 1967 photo was taken on a lovely day on the grounds of the campus in Monroe. They are (left to right): Joyce (Rose Anthony) Duroske, Joann (David Mary) Wolski, Julie (Marie Benedict) Slowik, Dorothy (Gretchen) Rossow and Mary (Mary Immaculate) McDevitt.

