

# IHM SISTERS E-NEWS

## The Journey Continues

On Tuesday, June 13, the Leadership Council joined me as I signed the transfer of sponsorship agreement. This document formalizes the transfer of sponsorship of the IHM Senior Living Community (IHM SLC) from the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (SSIHM), to Saint Therese Communities. This change in governance indicates that Saint Therese will be the new owner of IHM SLC, effective July 1, 2023. This is a formal, legal document that details the transition. The key points of the document include the following:

- Sisters will have priority access to the facility at the level of care needed.
- Congregational offices will have the currently allocated space and will be rent-free.
- SSIHM will appoint a person to serve on both the Saint Therese parent board and the Saint Therese Communities board. This is in addition to the advisory board of IHM SLC.
- An initial description of the property division, which is SSIHM, will retain the Academy and the powerhouse.

There have been weekly transition calls since the formal announcement May 1. The transition team for SSIHM includes me and Margaret Chapman, IHM and the heads of key departments involved in the transition. We continue to meet weekly in a virtual environment which provides both entities to receive updates and pose questions as



*Electronic signing of Saint Therese agreement*

the transition continues. During this time, staff from Saint Therese has a designated office space, providing a place to meet with our team. Saint Therese's staff demonstrates sensitivity to what this transition will mean for the employees and residents. To a person, the Saint Therese staff have expressed gratitude for the welcome and hospitality our staff provide. Through these meetings, Saint Therese is gaining an understanding of the IHM culture and the systems that we have in place. Our visitors bring the experience of Saint Therese to senior living and are working to enhance the operations of various departments. In all these meetings, there is a spirit of cooperation and a desire to strengthen IHM SLC for the future.

With the signing of the Transfer of Sponsorship, we move to the next phase of the transition. Following the results of a survey, we will close on the transfer of the property since this requires one lot to be split, with SSIHM retaining some of the property. [\(next page\)](#)

Monroe City Council approval is needed. Hopefully this approval will happen in mid-August. Until then, there will be a lease of IHM SLC to Saint Therese those few months.

The Leadership Council is grateful for your continued prayerful support as we continue this journey. We are invited to pray that the spirit of St. Therese of Lisieux, who embodied patience, trust in God and a spirit of humility, tenderness and goodness, be with us throughout the transition. Together with Louis Florent Gillet, we pray that

[we begin] without thinking of the future of the work, leaving it to God alone to bless and make it prosper.”

## Ministry Grant awards

The SSIHM Ministry Fund exists to provide resources to support both ministries of IHM Sisters and IHM Associates engaged in ministries which give evidence “that, with Mary of the Magnificat, we stand with and for the poor ...working with others to eradicate the causes of injustice and oppression.”  
~ IHM Constitutions, Articles 11 and 13

Congratulations to the 2023-24 Ministry Grant recipients! The list of awardees is available [here](#). The IHM ministry grants are administered by a board of directors consisting of up to nine members appointed by the SSIHM Leadership Council.

The Ministry Grant board with a broad-based composition each year reviews all applications submitted, determines eligibility and whether a ministry is to be awarded funds. The IHM Constitutions and the current Chapter Direction as well as policies and procedures guide decision-making in the granting of funds. A grantee’s sponsoring IHM or IHM Associate is the point of

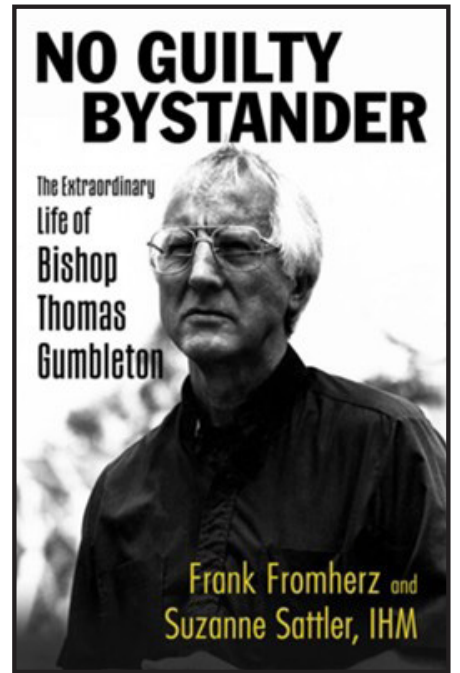
## ***La's Orchestra Saves the World***

***By Alexander McCall Smith reviewed  
by library staff***

Behind newspaper headlines of major world events are often countless stories of quiet heroism. In his stand-alone novel, *La's Orchestra Saves the World*, Alexander McCall Smith situates his readers in Suffolk, England in the cottage once belonging to Lavender Stone (La to her friends). Here, over a warm cup of tea, her story is told.

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, La, a recent music major graduate of Cambridge, is living in London with her new husband, Richard, whose father owns a French winery. Their marriage comes to an unexpected and devastating end when Richard moves to France with another woman. Richard's parents, angered and humiliated by his abandonment of La, ensure she is well cared for by giving her their country house in a tiny rural Suffolk village.

Lonely at first, La soon settles into her new home, becoming part of the community. As the war intensifies, La, along with each of her neighbors, does what she can to contribute to the war effort by planting a victory garden and volunteering as a farmhand through the Women's Land Army. Desiring to boost the town's morale, La organizes an amateur orchestra. Drawing musicians from the village and the local RAF base, she believes "music could make a difference in the temper of the world."



Two long time friends, Bishop Tom and Sister Sue, sharing Gelato on a warm afternoon.

## The School at Marygrove graduation

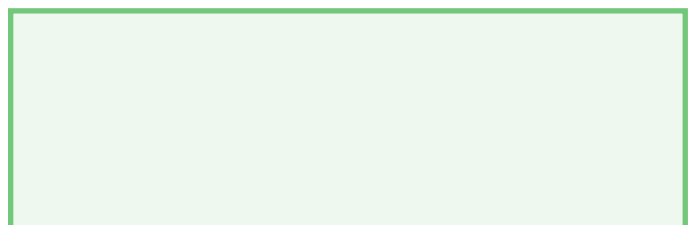
On May 31, I had the pleasure of being present at the inaugural graduation of The School at Marygrove (TSM) held at the Music Hall in Detroit. Eighty-nine young men and women crossed the stage to receive their high school diplomas. Elizabeth Burns, President Emeritus of Marygrove College and I sat where all the students passed near us as they ascended the stage. Their energy was electric and palpable.

The speakers included Principal Ms. Lisa Williams; Jane Herb, IHM, who provided an IHM history lesson; Judge Kyra Harris Bolden, 34, the first Black woman to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court who reinforced the concept of Marygrove made and Marygrove

proud; and Michael Chrazan, one of the founding teachers of TSM.

The valedictorian and salutatorian reminded us that the first years at TSM were pandemic years where they experienced isolation, losing loved ones, family members' unemployment, multiple turnovers in TSM's principal and on-site construction all while "doing the business that was necessary" for their education. They called for us to be kind and care for one another. They were "laying a landscape for others to follow." The question for them was: "How will I rise?" Their answer: "We will rise together!"

I was left with two thoughts. First, how proud I would be and how proud our IHM foremothers would be in the seeds planted by





The class of 2023 quilt includes 88 squares from each student of the first graduating class.



In graduate Sha'Cari Fleming's square, Sister Theresa Maxis is featured passing the torch of justice to the class of '23.

“Congratulations, legacy Class of 2023 of The School at Marygrove! I, too, am a member of a legacy class at Marygrove College, The Class of 1972. Our legacy began 55 years ago when 68 Black women were woven into the fabric of this college's history bringing inclusion, diversity, and equity to a previously white, Catholic campus. We proudly represent the college's largest inclusion of Black women since the first Black woman was enrolled in 1938. Someone else from the Class may have presented the concept of



### Remembering



Mary Carol Sharer  
IHM Associate,

August 16, 1941-  
May 12, 2023



Lillian Trillo  
IHM Associate

October 16, 1928-  
May 11, 2023



We are pleased to announce that the first Marygrove Alumni Legacy Scholarship has been awarded to Ms. Kennedy Overstreet, class president of the inaugural graduating class of The School at Marygrove High School. The Marygrove Alumni Board is excited to give this monetary gift to a deserving student who has demonstrated competence, compassion and commitment during her four years of education on our beloved campus. She has endured and been a class leader during four years of construction, renovation and remote learning due to COVID. Ms. Overstreet will attend Grand Valley State University. We wish her all the best.

***The graduation was a jubilant event held at the Music Hall in Detroit. [Click here to view the highlights.](#)***

Many thanks to those of you who have already donated in response to our annual Appeal letter (via IHM communications email). We hope many more of you will again consider supporting your Alumni Association so that we can continue to create meaningful connections with the School at Marygrove going forward. Your donations also allow us to sponsor annual reunions on campus so you can see firsthand the wonderful legacy of education continuing via the P-20 Education program. We cannot do it without you, so please consider giving any amount to fund our volunteer efforts! You can always donate online via [donation form](#).

- Please watch for your invitation to the 2023 All-Alumni Reunion, which should arrive (via IHM Communications email) any day now. All Alums



## Reflections on 45 Years of IHM Associates

By Barbara Bacci Yugovich, IHM Co-Coordinator

The IHM Sisters and Associates who gathered Sunday, April 30, wrote many beautiful reflections as they pondered on the 45th Anniversary of IHM Associates. One question they were invited to reflect upon was, "What is your personal meaning of being an IHM Associate committed to the IHM mission and charism?"

Some IHM Associates shared:

- √ The energy of the spirit, dreams, hopes that I learned as an IHM in the 70s has always been a part of me. The burning desire for social justice had its beginning here with IHM Sisters. I owe much of my spirituality to IHM so to ignite all that again as an associate is like coming home!"
- √ ... The presence of IHM Associates in relationship with the IHM Sisters "pushes" us to recognize an expansive circle; an inclusive, lived experience in our diverse world.

Some IHM Sisters said:

- √ I'm grateful for the colorful "threads" of the lives of the associates and how they/we are woven into the fabric of the IHM community.
- √ ... We are Sisters (Brothers) ALL! As a vowed member, I so appreciate the time and energy that IHM Associates give on various committees and in our Mission Circles and liturgies. We have been so blessed with you among us!
- √ As an IHM, I feel very blessed and enriched by the associates. Their embodying of the charism and commitment is most inspiring.

Perhaps you know someone interested in learning more about IHM Associates? Please contact the IHM Associate Co-Coordinator, Anne Crimmins, IHM and Barbara Bacci-Yugovich, IHM Associate, by calling the IHM Associate Office at 734-240-9672.



***From the archives... a look back***  
***Sister Ignatia Frye: Pioneer in Computer Science***  
***She led the way to the future for her students.***

The 1960s had just begun when Sister Ignatia started studying the powerful potential of digital computers. By the late 1970s, she was a pioneer in the computer science department at Marygrove College. "I think as we gain greater insight into the field of science, it gives us a greater understanding of what God is," she told The [Marquette] Mining Journal for a newspaper story in 1983.

She was born Frances Cornelia Frye on May 11, 1912, in her great-grandmother's house in Washington, D.C. Eventually moving to Michigan; she chose to attend Marygrove College in 1930. In her autobiography, Sister Ignatia said she wavered between majoring in English or chemistry. Her English instructor recommended chemistry. She entered the convent in Monroe on July 1, 1934, and was received on Jan. 2, 1935. She started teaching 10th-grade English at the Academy but soon was sent to St. Catherine's, Detroit, to teach chemistry and English. In the summer of 1938, she went to Catholic University in Washington, D.C., to work on a master's degree and she taught math, chemistry or physics for the next 12 years.

For Sister Ignatia, the 1950s were filled with work and study in the sciences. She received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study chemistry at CUA, she had a research assistantship funded by the Air Force and she finished her Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1955. At 69, she moved to Northern Michigan University in Marquette and spent four years there, beloved by her data processing students. Glimpsing the future, she told The Mining Journal, "Today, the smaller, more inexpensive computers are rapidly becoming a basic part of our daily lives."

Her final ministry, and said to be her most cherished, was with the sick and dying. She returned to the

## Sister Janet Ryan

Janet Ryan came into the world during WWII (1943). Her father was in the Army when she arrived, but her mother and maternal grandmother welcomed her to Port Huron, Mich. When Mr. Ryan returned from Europe, the family moved to Emmett where two brothers and a sister joined them. They formed the typical Catholic family of the era with Sunday Mass, forty hours, parish missions, family prayer and grade school at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Emmett. For high school, Janet chose to attend St. Stephen, Port Huron. This involved a 25-mile trip one-way, along with other teens, in what she describes as jalopies. Janet, being enthralled with the sisters, had decided in the second grade to join the IHMs. St. Stephen high school was another step along the way.

Janet's decision to enter the IHM was a cause of grief to her parents, but they did not interfere. Over the years, she had been intrigued with the sisters as they spoke of a search for God, held a broad world view and were professional educators. Janet saw what she wanted to be. In 1961, she entered as one of 75 IHM postulants. Her ideals have remained the same as life brought her to different ministries and locations.

Janet began her ministry of teaching in 1966 at St. Matthew with 40 first graders. She doesn't know who was more scared—the children or the teacher, but Janet came to love both the children and teaching. These were years of change—new habits and diversified ministries. At St. Rose in Detroit (1967-1969), Janet encountered both racial diversity and deep racism.

[cont](#)

## ***Marian's Lenore Pochelski, IHM, named CHSL'S person of the year***

The Detroit Catholic High School League (CHSL) and Catholic Coaches Association announced on May 12 that Sr. Lenore Pochelski, IHM, Head of School at Marian High School, has been named the 2023 Ed Lauer Person of the Year. The CHSL's top honor will be presented to her during their annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet Monday, June 12, at the Fern Hill Golf & Country Club.

Sr. Lenore will be the second religious woman to win the award since its inception in 1983. In addition, she becomes the first head of school/president/administrator and only the sixth non-coach to win the League's highest award.

Sr. Lenore, who retired from Marian this year after 31 years, was instrumental in promoting the Catholic school's reputation for academic excellence which in turn attracted female student-athletes from around Southeast Michigan seeking exceptional athletics in an empowering environment built on faith and sisterhood. She led Marian's capital campaign to raise the funds needed to build the state-of-the-art gymnasium on campus, which has become home to many state-champion basketball and volleyball teams, in addition to hosting tournaments for the Catholic Youth Organization and others. During Sr. Lenore's tenure, the athletic facilities, including the locker rooms, tennis courts and sporting fields, have seen renovations or upgrades. She has had a front-row seat to 34 of the 35 Mustangs state championship teams.

Ed Lauer, whom the award is named after, was the Athletic Director and coach at St. Paul High School and All Saints High School. Coach Lauer won multiple state titles as a coach and was the winningest Athletic Director in league history.



**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](#)