

Today and Yesterday

Stories from the Archives

Fall 2023

Volume 7, Issue 1

A collection of recent discoveries and activities in the IHM Archives



Treasured window moves to Heritage Room

One of the oldest artifacts of the IHM congregation is the newest addition to the Heritage Room.

The 19th century piece is the only remaining window from the Msgr. Edward Joos Memorial Chapel. The leaded glass shows the Immaculate Heart of Mary with other decorative colored glass pieces. It is floor to ceiling tall and just shy of

three feet wide.

Around 1864, Father Joos, then director of the IHM congregation, had the chapel built to stand in St. Joseph Cemetery on N. Monroe St. By then, several Sisters had been buried in the St. Mary's Parish knoll cemetery immediately south of St. Joseph. Father Joos wanted the Sisters to be together and he had the remains of nine moved on Nov. 7, 1865, and reinterred in a circle around the chapel. Eventually, 64 Sisters were laid to rest there.

When Father Joos died in 1901 he was laid to rest under the chapel floor.

The chapel suffered a lightning strike in

1943 that set the roof on fire. Then in 1985 vandals damaged the building and stole all the windows, save one.

That lone surviving window has hung in the second-floor chapel in the Motherhouse, the Heritage Room, and the Memory Care chapel. Now it will be at home in Archives.

Thanks go to the guys in the maintenance department who moved the window to Archives at the end of August. David Sulkowski, facilities manager, said the window weighs between 150 and 200 pounds. It was wrapped in blankets and quilts and placed on a cart made for moving glass. "The move was flawless," David said, emphasizing



his crew handled the assignment with extra caution.

It now will be part of the Heritage Room's cemetery exhibit. Please visit the Heritage Room outside the Maxis Community Room to see this 160-year-old piece of IHM history.

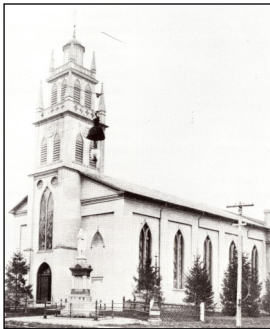


Is there something curious about the number 300?

The number 300 has no outside significance, but it certainly has been conspicuous in IHM history.

Father Gillet, co-founder with Mother Theresa Maxis, was in Monroe working on establishing a new home for Redemptorists as well as a teaching institute for Catholic children. To this end, he signed a contract with St. Anthony's congregation – earlier called St. Antoine's

and later called St. Mary's, Monroe – in which he outlined a plan for the next **300**



years. If the contract had held, it would still not be over.

In *No Greater Service*, we read Sister Rosalita's history of that agreement:

“Father Gillet, the superior, on June 16, 1844, entered into a contract with St. Anthony Parish whereby for three hundred years, there was given to him and to his successors, the use of the church, the regular collections, pew rent, profits from and free use of the church land. The pew rent and other revenues were to belong exclusively to the Redemptorist order as would also the additions of church furniture, vestments, and ornaments which the priests should make. The Redemptorists agreed, on their part, that they would minister to the people in the French language and that there would

always be a priest, as pastor, in residence. They agreed to defray all the ordinary expenses of maintenance but would not be held liable for extraordinary expenditures incurred by trustees, such as additions to the church, installing an organ or similar investments.” (32)

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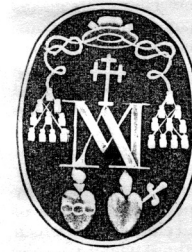
The number 300 arose again just two decades later. The original Rule, which was written by Father Gillet, needed some clarifications added, especially since Sisters had begun living away on mission. The bishop in Detroit took it upon himself to work on it. Again, from *No Greater Service*:

“Bishop Lefevere approved the revised rule on November 7, 1861, and at his own expense had **three hundred** copies printed, with an equal number of the manual of prayer. Rule and manual were bound together, and for the first time in the history of the community, each Sister had a copy of the rule for her own use.” (245)

At the time of that printing, there were only 17 Sisters.

PREFACE.

nexed and following Rules and Constitutions, re-arranged and amended by your aforesaid Director, as the Rules and Constitutions of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose Mother-House is now in the City of Monroe, in the State of Michigan. And further, we hereby desire, that all the usual vows, which are to be made or renewed, shall, henceforth, be made and renewed according to these Rules and Constitutions.



Given at Detroit, under our hand and seal, this seventh day of November, A. D. 1861.

PETER PAUL,
Bp. Zel. Coadj.
Adm. Det.

.....

The final 300 came with the building of the second IHM Motherhouse. Mother Ruth Hankerd and Sister Miriam Raymo meant for this one to last longer than the first one, dilapidated and crowded in its 63rd year. From the Campus Renovation Committee:

“Built in 1932 during the Great Depression, the 376,000-square-foot structure with 18-inch concrete and brick walls was deemed by architects and engineers to be built solidly enough to last into the **23rd century.**”



We love a mystery ... when we can solve it

The dozens and dozens of collections in the IHM Archives are enriched often by random “contributions” that show up at the door. Most common are photos and chronicles, degrees and awards, and one time, a typewriter.

Archives staff members enjoy deciding where these things belong and how they fit into the IHM story. But sometimes we need a little help.

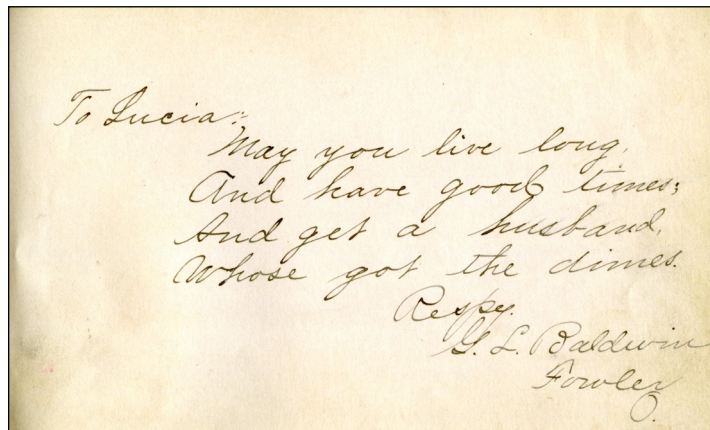
One of the latest donations in our mail pocket was a 19th century autograph album. It’s 6 inches by 3¾ inches and has a decorative hard cover. In 1886, the poems and messages were written to Lucia. Because her siblings signed their full names, we presume her last name was Williams. By 1889, she is addressed as Mrs. A. Haden, sometimes Hayden.

Some of the friends and siblings who signed the album included the place. They all seem to be in Ohio: Painesville, Vienna, Fowler, Cortland, Youngstown.

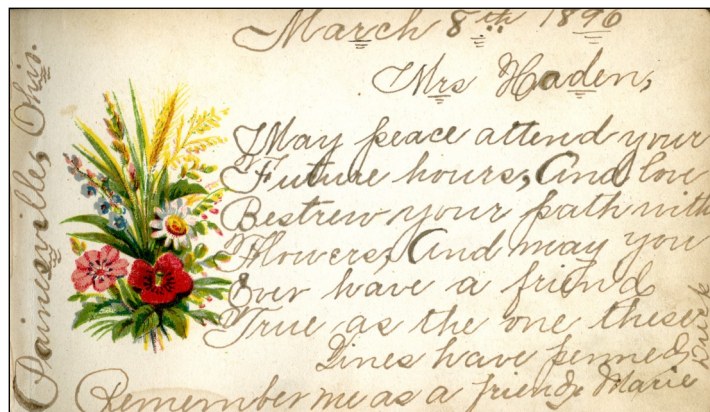


This tiny photo is tucked into the album, but includes no names.

We’ve scrutinized every page, Googled every full name (what a lot of Lucia Williamses there are!) and checked our records. So, this is where you come in. Do you know how this autograph book got to the Archives? Does it have an IHM connection? Would you like to see it? To answer any of these questions, please contact Archivist Jennifer Meacham at ext. 695.



The message: “May you live long And have good times, And get a husband Whose got the dimes.”



The message: “May peace attend your Future hours, and love Bestrew your path with Flowers, And may you Ever have a friend True as the one these Lines have penned.”

From the Archivist

To help fill a gap in the historical record, we need of photos of sisters in ministry from the 1970s to the present. And if you are not ready to hand them in for good, just say the word and we will scan the photos and return them to you.

Thank you!

When creating or submitting your photos, scrapbooks, Chronicles and so on, please remember wherever possible to include the **five Ws: who, what, when, where and why.** The most-coveted items would focus on your IHM years and experiences. We are always happy to answer questions.

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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.

Among Ourselves: Summer Days 2011



Together on campus July 26-29, 2011, are (left to right): Sisters Jean Booms, Lisandra Pedraza Burgos, Lenore Pochelski, Mary Ellen Keyes, Marie Gabriel Hungerman, Marie-Ester Haflett, Pat Aseltyne and Juliana Casey.