



Thank you from Chicago

The refugee crisis in Chicago continues, but thanks to the IHM community, many families have been helped as they struggle to take care of their children, find a safe place to live, and work to begin to make a new life for themselves. Many refugees have come to the United States via the Mexico border to escape violence and oppression in their home countries.

The IHM community has long served refugees and, in collaboration with other sisters this past year, opened a house in McAllen, Texas to be present among the people. Not being a border state, Chicago had a steep learning curve in helping the refugees bussed in from Texas and Florida and dropped off at police stations throughout the city. Immediately, local neighbors banded together and formed volunteer groups in each district to provide help. They continue their volunteer work, partnering with the police stations, government, local shelters, Catholic charities, churches and religious communities to help people with food, clothing, blankets, medical supplies and other necessities. They also help with securing shelter, transportation and job opportunities.

I know one of the volunteer group leaders in Chicago and asked what the IHM community could do to help. Blankets and suitcases were high on the list because these were very short in supply. When the families are brought to the station, they have to sleep on the floor. They arrive with nothing but pants and a shirt on their back.

Families with babies and young children who receive things like baby formula, medications and clothes are given a garbage bag to hold what little they have.

Here's what the sisters and staff donated within just a few days of receiving the call to help last month:

- 37 wheeled suitcases
- 52 dupe bags and other carrying bags
- 14 backpacks (mochilas are a favorite among the children!)
- 55 blankets and comforters
- eight pillows (including small ones for the little children)
- six sheet sets
- \$240 cash (plus more that was donated directly online)



Sister Julie (left with Melba and Annie) learned how they are organizing the volunteers and working with the refugees - all while already having a job and families of their own!

The IHM community made a difference in people's lives and encouraged the many volunteers who give selflessly of themselves daily. Thank you. Thanks also to the IHM Transportation Office, which lent a large SUV to transport everything to Chicago. It didn't look like it would fit, but we managed to do it with a bit of help and Tetris-like expertise! I even strapped a couple of suitcases to the bicycle rack!

Once in Chicago, I met with some volunteers, including Melba, Ruth and Annie. It was amazing to see their joy at receiving supplies and knowing that people in Michigan were there to support their work with the refugees. The cash donation was used that very day. Fifty people were dropped off by bus from Brownsville, Texas. The donation allowed them to provide five phones with three months of service. They'll be able to call family members for the first time in weeks. They can use the phones for important Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) check-ins and social worker connections.

Within a couple of days, half of the suitcases and all the blankets were already given to families. Within the week, volunteers were able to provide the rest of the donations to various families, including one family with two little boys under the age of five.



Some of the supplies that were donated. And yes, all of these really did fit in the SUV!

For more information, check out this [article by WBEZ Chicago Public Media](#).

“Entangled” might best describe the complex web of lives in the small seaside town of Ville Rose, Haiti, in Edwidge Danticat’s 2013 novel, *Claire of the Sea Light*. It also captures the narrative structure of Danticat’s storytelling as a series of related events are told from several different characters’ perspectives.

Claire Limyè Lanmè, or Claire of the Sea Light, a young girl whose mother died giving birth to her, goes missing on the evening of her seventh birthday, just when her Sherman father, Nozias, unceasingly tormented with the idea that, in order to provide for his daughter, he should entrust her to a local woman of greater means, has made the wrenching decision to do so.

As Nozias and others search for Claire, the novel pivots to explore other characters in Ville Rose. Danticat weaves these stories of men and women whose individual lives mysteriously surround this one little girl into a tapestry of entwined lives. The chapters gradually fit together until the final pages, when many of her diverse characters are back at the seaside on the same evening the novel opens.

Christine Germain writes in the journal *Palimpsest*

Save the Date

Honoring Father Tim McCabe, SJ Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023, at Detroit Athletic Club

The Theresa Maxis Award recognizes community leaders who embody the values and vision of the IHM community. This year, for our eighth annual, we have the pleasure of honoring Father Tim McCabe, SJ, in recognition of his service to poor and marginalized communities.

Throughout his life, he has immersed himself in social justice issues and has worked to positively impact the lives of so many in our community and beyond. Fr. Tim currently serves as the executive director and president of Pope Francis Center in Detroit, where guests are offered a safe place to take respite from life on the streets and help to unlock their potential to realize a brighter future. Always drawn to the poor and marginalized, Fr. Tim became involved with the Detroit peace community and the Catholic Worker Movement as a young man. In addition to serving as the director of a refugee settlement project, Fr. McCabe helped repair houses for Detroit's inner-city poor and served meals in a soup kitchen.

On a humanitarian aid mission to El Salvador, he was drawn to his Jesuit companions, whose faith in action propelled his decision to attend the Jesuit-based University of Detroit Mercy, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science. He joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC), serving as the human service organization's Midwest director for 12 years. His work with JVC introduced him to Ignatian spirituality, making a tremendous impact not only on how he prayed but how he understood the world. In 2005, after many years of discerning a vocation to the Society of Jesus, Fr. Tim answered God's call to join the Jesuit faith. For a time, he provided hospice support to homeless individuals in San Francisco,

A legacy from Brazil

By Gloria Rivera, IHM



Celebrating and Experiencing the Season of Creation, 2023

By members of the Season of Creation committee

IHM Sisters Ellen Rinke, Elizabeth Walters, Peg O'Shea, Nancy Ayotte

Coinciding with the harvest season in many parts of the world, the Season of Creation begins Sept. 1 with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends Oct. 4 with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecology. This year's theme is "Let Justice and Peace Flow," taking inspiration from the prophet Amos, who declares: "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24). We are invited to join the flowing stream of justice and peace, to embrace the cause of climate and ecological justice, and to raise our voices with and for those who suffer the most from climate injustice and biodiversity loss.

Join us for the Season of Creation, a time to celebrate the wonders of God's creations and to renew our bond with the Creator and all living beings. Each year, the Season of Creation encourages us to grow in love and gratitude for the Creator and invites us to repent, pray, and act together for the healing of our common home, for the conversion of our hearts and minds, and deep commitment to the common good and to care for God's gifts.

SEASON OF CREATION OPENING PRAYER

Friday, Sept. 1, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Maxis Community Room

SUNDAY LITURGIES

Sunday, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1 at 10 a.m.
The Motherhouse Chapel

RIVER RAISIN RITUAL

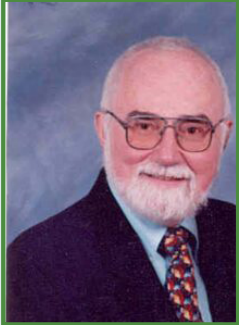
Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Held on the front lawn of 610 W. Elm.

SEASON OF CREATION 2023 CLOSING LITURGY

Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
The Motherhouse Chapel



Remembering



James Doyle,
IHM Associate
Oct. 15, 1940-
Aug. 12, 2023



Mary Jane Janssens,
IHM Associate
Nov. 16, 1934-
Aug. 04, 2023



Marie (Marie
Anthony) Gatza, IHM
April 7, 1924 -
Aug. 22, 2023



C. Vita (Vita Marie)
Pierce, IHM
Dec. 24, 1943 -
Aug. 17, 2023



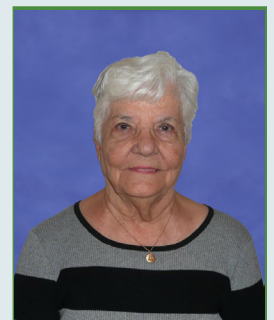
Antoinette (Jean Clare)
McNamara, IHM
June 13, 1926 -
Aug. 16, 2023



Pamela (Joseph
David) Kobasic, IHM
April 24, 1947 -
Aug. 20, 2023



Hilda (James Elen)
Skelley, IHM
June 28, 1937 -
Aug. 2, 2023



Bernadette Costello,
IHM Associate
Aug. 25, 1934 -
Aug. 17, 2023

Well done, good and faithful servant

By Peg O'Shea, IHM

On Aug. 1, 2023, Sister Judy Coyle, IHM returned to the U.S. after almost 38 years of ministry in South Africa. Sister Judy was one of the first team of IHM Sisters who arrived in Howick in 1985 to assist the Redemptorists in theological education for priests and brothers. She is the last IHM to return home from the African continent.

During her years overseas, Sister Judy taught at St. Joseph Theological Institute, the University of South Africa (Unisa) and St. Augustine's College. Having already earned her M.A. from Notre Dame, Sister Judy completed her DTh in Christian Spirituality at Unisa, writing her thesis on Therese of Lisieux: Heroine of Struggle.

Although Sister Judy is retiring as the head of the Theology Department at St. Augustine's, she is remembered for her "many years of quiet unassuming labor, carried out in the background, the cumulative effect of which has been to significantly contribute to Catholic Higher Education and establishing a Catholic tertiary academic platform in South Africa." On July 22, 2023, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of St. Augustine's College Mr. Mel Antonie awarded Sister Judy the highest honor, the Bonum Commune.

After the award presentation during Mass At Trinity Jesuit Church, President Terry Sacco surprised Sister Judy by reading a letter from the IHM Leadership Council. The letter reflected that "Sister Judy is a noted and sought-after speaker in Johannesburg. She is a poet, musician, deep thinker and committed woman religious. She is a humble and caring support to others—quietly building community wherever she is."

President Sacco affirmed how Sister Judy had helped her at every step of

The McAllen connection

By Gloria Rivera, IHM

loria, do you mind if I give your phone number to a Honduran family I just met in Reynosa? They are going to Detroit.” How can anyone say no to such a request from Sister Carmen Armenta Lara? The family—Deisy, Joel, four-year-old son Erick and not-yet-born-second-child—arrived in early April. One could say the rest is history, but a better statement would be this has been an example of loving care for this family.

The family could stay with Deisy’s sister, who lived with her partner and brother. If you are counting, this means five adults, a four-year-old and unhatched baby in a three-bedroom duplex. The family would soon grow to nine adults and three children. Tight quarters do not begin to describe the housing situation.

Sister Carmen had also called Valerie Knoche, IHM, who came bearing gifts of clothing, gift cards and her loving care and concern for this family. Two primary concerns needed immediate attention – medical care for Deisy, who had not seen a doctor and also connecting the family with an immigration lawyer. CHASS Clinic in Southwest Detroit provided all of Deisy’s needs. Son Asher was born on June 12. Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center is helping with asylum applications. When these applicants are sent to Immigration, the clinic helps them apply for work permits while they await their court date with an immigration judge. As life would have it, our good friend and former IHM Dora Lezovich volunteers at the clinic. Paula Cathcart, IHM, provides moral support.

As the family grew, their basic needs grew. There are a number of local food distribution centers in

The first of seven children of Margaret Convery and Neal O'Shea, Sister Peg O'Shea was born in 1943. Her childhood was marked by a feeling of responsibility for her family. She deeply loved her parents and the six siblings who came after her: Jim, Tom, Tim, Cathy, Kevin and Terry. Silvia Hurtado Ruelas from Mexico was

'adopted' by her family and Joe Frosie is still loved as an O'Shea. Most weekends, their family visited grandparents in Canada and occasionally drove to Atlanta, GA, to visit Dad's relatives.

One day, on the way to St. Brigid Grade School, the owner of the corner gas station asked her why she was always smiling. She did not tell him her secret. She had a pamphlet from church that told her the Trinity dwelled inside each person. This secret shaped the rest of her life. While a student at Immaculata High School in Detroit, Peg thought she would either, marry and have ten children, or become a sister! In 1961, Peg entered the IHM congregation and began a journey of God's amazing love.

Margaret Brennan, the novice mistress, opened the Scriptures to her for the first time. Margaret returned again and again to the refrain of "the person of Jesus as the center of our lives."

Mary McDevitt introduced Sister Peg to Vatican II and Mary Jo Maher helped extend Peg's vision to the poor and abandoned. The IHM Congregation revealed the reality of God's love for every person and creature that God called to life.

Marygrove Minute

Fall Greetings to all alums and friends as we enjoy these last warm days. Summer seemed fleeting but was full of wonderful events at the Marygrove Conservancy campus, including their second annual block party for the neighborhood in August. The next issue will provide a full update on the All-Alumni Reunion since it will occur September 16 at Madame Cadillac Hall. Hopefully, many of you have already registered for this memorable event. If by chance you missed the deadline, please email lorializ@gmail.com today on the off chance there is still room. Please check the Marygrove Alumni and Friends Facebook page regularly to see what's new about Marygrove grads and The Conservancy. Regretfully, we learned of the loss of a dear Marygrove professor, Dr. George Alscer. He served at Marygrove for 46 years in the Philosophy and Theology departments. If you missed the obituary celebrating his wonderful life, click [here](#).

If you haven't read about the new LEAPS program starting in the fall of 2024, you can find out about this exciting concept, which will utilize Florent Gillet Hall on campus for Freshman students and new classrooms in Madame Cadillac Hall [here](#).

Finally, we received this delightful note from a loyal Marygrove alum who just had to share:

What a surprise I received for my birthday! My son and daughter-in-law came up from Atlanta, Georgia. As we opened gifts at my younger son's house, I was given a \$100 gift for the Marygrove Conservancy.