



IHM SISTERS  
E-NEWS

March 2024

## Enfolding grace

By Barbara O'Neill, IHM

In an interview, actress Meryl Streep was asked what it was like to play the role of a nun in the movie, *Doubt*. She spoke highly of the Daughters of Charity and how they helped her to prepare for her character. Sisters taught her the history and charism of the congregation, which she articulated rather eloquently. The interviewer asked what it was like to wear the habit. Ms. Streep laughed, explaining the many layers of clothing and what it took to get her dressed. But then she became quite thoughtful as she told the audience about the prayers said over each piece of clothing as it was put on, stating, "It is a very conscious way of living." Many of us who remember those days can relate well to her experience. Even though times have changed, how can we carry forward that marvelous idea of conscious living? Every day, we are given new opportunities, possibilities and challenges. As you begin your day, how can you take the time and space to find grounding and connection within? Perhaps we can glean a little insight from the Rite of Baptism, clothing with the white garment:

*You have become a new creation,  
and have clothed yourself in Christ.  
See in this white garment the outward sign  
of your Christian dignity.  
With your family and friends to help you  
by word and example,  
bring that dignity unstained  
into the everlasting life of heaven.*

Notice how you are called by name, given an identity, clothed with the dignity of Christ and

supported by the community of family and friends. The putting on gesture can also be found in other rites, such as Marriage and Religious Profession, where it is the putting on of the ring/pin that is the "outward sign" of total giving of oneself in a relationship. Every day presents us with new opportunities for putting on our intimate bond with God and one another. It is easy to be distracted by the myriad thoughts, ideas and opinions about what needs to get done; emails, phone calls, text messages and social media can easily keep us from being conscious in the present moment. The act of getting dressed, putting on clothing and the ring/pin is a conscious way of putting on the Christ in our hearts and minds, allowing the Spirit to influence our every thought, word and deed throughout the day. These simple rituals become moments of grace conveying resurrection hope. Grace sustains us as we dare, risk and dream creatively, showing the world how much it is loved.

"Who are you wearing?" is a question posed to celebrities during awards season, walking the infamous red carpet, giving credit to world-famous designers. The same question is posed to us, "who are you wearing?"



## The River Raisin Institute's spring seedling sale May 4, 2024 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

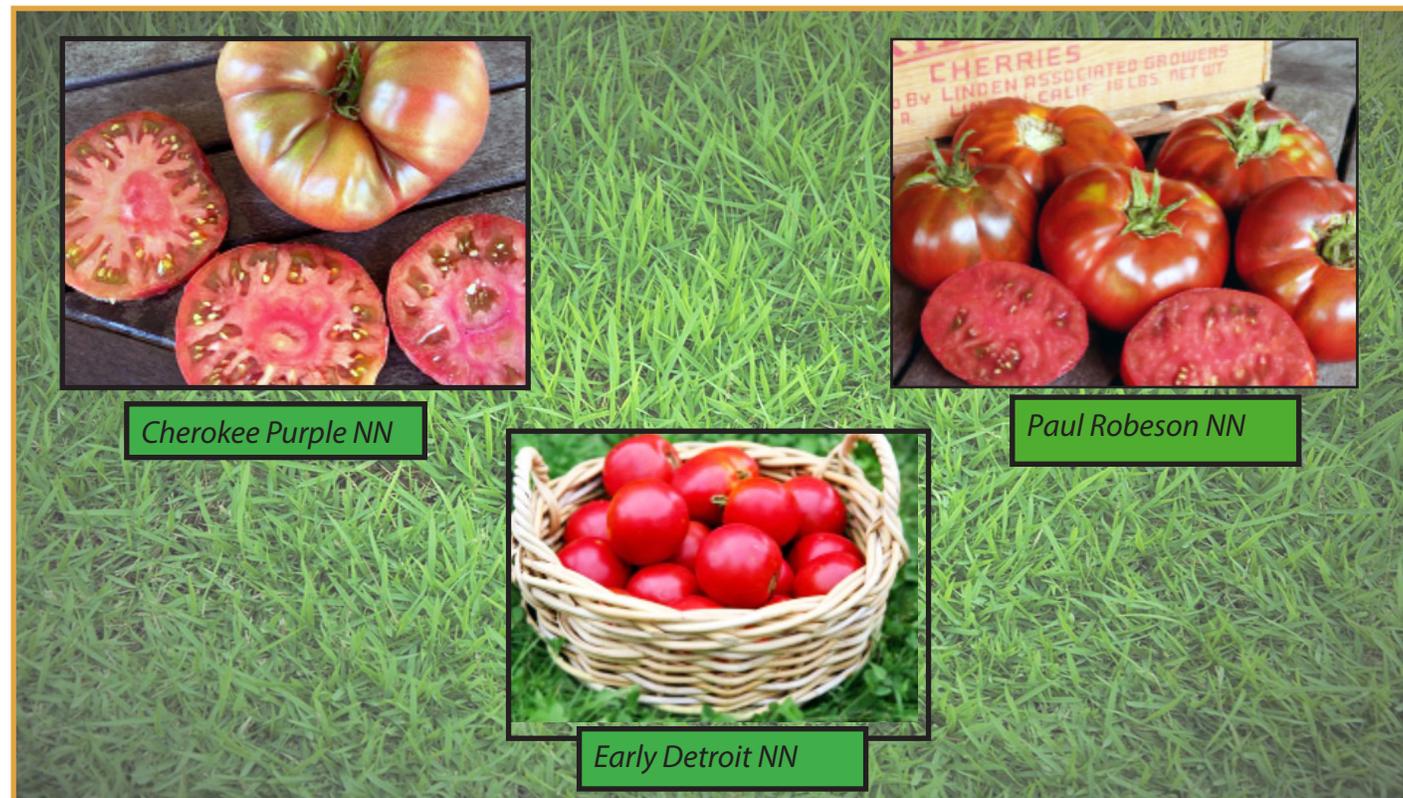
For those of us who are enthusiastic about organic gardening or folks who just prefer to go organic, we have good news! The River Raisin Institute will be selling organic seedlings this spring. We will have numerous options for tomatoes and peppers and at least one for eggplants. One interesting seedling is the Early Detroit tomato. Early Detroit was released by D.M. Ferry Seed Company of Detroit in 1909 and is a medium-sized, round, pink-slicing tomato with excellent flavor.

All the seeds will be USDA organic. Many are old, favorite heirloom varieties. All the seeds will be started in soil blocks using Dairy Doo's 101 Seed Starter (USDA organic certified) and up potted using 301 Veggie Doo (also USDA certified organic). Dairy Doo is a great company located in Sears, Michigan. Many, but not all, of the seeds will be purchased from Michigan suppliers as well.



The sale will be Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the garden gazebo on the IHM Campus. Seedlings can be preordered on the [RRI website](#) or by calling Marion Martyres at 734-240-9754. Preordered seedlings will be available for pick up Friday, May 3, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the garden gazebo on the IHM Campus. Cash or credit cards are acceptable. The price will be \$5.50 per seedling. The seedling catalog is available from the RRI office.

Preorder seedlings and view the seedling catalogue [here](#). If you are unable to use the order form, please contact us at [riverraisininstitute@gmail.com](mailto:riverraisininstitute@gmail.com) or (734) 240-9754. Get your orders in early!



## Life on this side of the border

**Gloria Rivera, IHM**

In a previous Connections issue, I shared a story about a Honduran couple referred to me by our sister Carmen, who is ministering in McAllen. My initial acquaintance was with Deysi, Joel and 5-year-old Erick. I met them at Yesenia's (Deysi's sister) duplex last March. Soon after, other family members joined them: six adults, three teenage boys, two five-year-old girls and Asher, born June 13, 2023!

What has life been like for them? I don't presume to speak on their behalf, yet accompanying them has allowed me to recall what a proper network of concern looks like, such as individuals and groups who try to help them meet their needs bit by bit. We hear the news about immigrants coming to the border in record numbers, of governors shipping them to other cities without consideration, of these cities being overwhelmed, and of citizens responding with help while others with disgust.

Our immigration laws are broken. Courts are overwhelmed, and asylum processes take two to five years, ending in asylum not being granted. Some of our elected officials bicker and use immigrants as political tools who get caught in the middle in this land of immigrants.

What does a "network of concern" include? Suitable shelter with reasonable rent; immigration lawyers to help with asylum applications; schools that can respond to language and emotional issues; adult education, mainly English; work permits that can be expedited so people don't work 'under the table' and get exploited; adequate transportation; the ability to get IDs and legitimate driver's licenses; a steady supply of food; clothing; medical care and much more. Above all, what is needed is hospitality of mind and heart from all of us, lots of patience and "for-the-long-haul" support. Thank you to many who have assisted this sixteen-member Honduran family. They say "muchas gracias que Dios los bendiga."

I trust that when Asher gets older, he can recount the story of his family's journey from Tegucigalpa to Detroit, perhaps as his college entrance essay.



### ***Remembering***



Eva (Mary Neumann) Schoell, IHM  
[March 27, 1929- March 7, 2024](#)

Jean Ann (Cecilia) Campana, IHM  
[June 8, 1947-Feb. 20, 2024](#)



## From the JPSO Office

Have you ever stopped to think about what happens to all that plastic we use daily? It's like this silent intruder sneaking into every nook and cranny of our beautiful planet, wreaking havoc wherever it goes. Plastic waste is choking our environment and threatening the creatures that call it home.

1. Plastic is made from petroleum oil, which isn't sustainable. Oil is a nonrenewable fossil fuel that pollutes our air.
2. Making plastic uses a LOT of water. According to the Water Footprint Calculator, making 1 pound of plastic takes 22 gallons of water. That means it takes at least double the amount of water to produce a single-use bottle as the amount of water in the actual bottle.
3. 1 million plastic water bottles are purchased every single minute across the globe. Unfortunately, less than 10% of all plastic produced is recycled.
4. Half of all plastic in the world today was produced in the last 15 years. Many states have already banned single-use plastic bags in retail stores, and some areas are even starting to ban plastic bottles. However, the amount of plastic expected to be produced in 2050 is still 3.5 times the amount produced in 2015.
5. By 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish (by weight), according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's The New Plastics Economy report, released in 2016.

On Dec. 6, 2023, we held our first anti-plastic event here at the IHM Motherhouse. Speaker Jeff Krcmarik, Recycling Specialist - Materials Management Division, MI Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, educated us about the detrimental effects of plastic on our environment.

Our commitment to environmental stewardship and passion for sustainable living inspire us to educate and act on reducing plastic pollution. Our anti-plastic campaign is multifaceted to raising awareness, advocating for policy change, and promoting sustainable alternatives to plastic consumption.

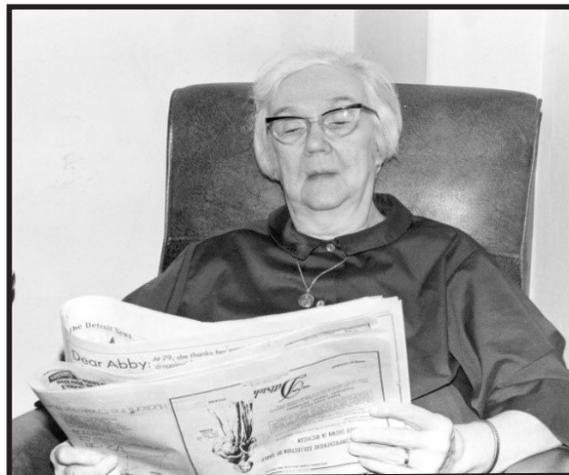


## From the archives... a look back

### Sister served lovingly in a single ministry

Because of the long, active lifetimes of many IHM Sisters, an individual's ministry list can be extensive, frequently documenting 10 to 25 different missions and locales. One of the shortest ministry lists in the IHM Archives database consists of three lines. It belongs to Sister Gracelma Beavis. Despite a relatively long life of 76 years, Sister Gracelma spent her ministry years all in one place: the Motherhouse Infirmary.

Born Jan. 9, 1907, in Detroit, Norine Rose Mary Beavis was baptized a month later in Our Lady of Help parish. Her mother's chronic illness might have helped prepare young Norine for a career in health care. She took advantage of an invitation to finish her high school classes and begin nurse's training at Providence Hospital School of Nursing. She graduated in 1928 as a registered nurse. While working in a hospital, she cared for her mother until Mrs. Beavis died Dec. 12, 1932. Six months later, Norine entered the IHM congregation. Taking the name Sister Gracelma, her skills were quickly put to use in the infirmary, where she spent the next three decades.



Her title "Infirmarian" carried the roles of nurse, head nurse, supervision of the Hall of the Divine Child infirmary, 12 years in charge of the clinic and two years in charge of the pharmacy. At one time, her annual work schedule was one day off a week, two weeks' vacation and one week's retreat. In 1962, she was stricken with polio, which required her to wear a heavy brace for the rest of her life. Her fellow nurse and dear friend Sister Joella Poupore helped her get around the building and have a good time. In a 1966 autobiographical form, Sister Gracelma listed her main interests as "advancement of nursing," ballgames, reading and puzzles.

Having suffered for years with Myasthenia gravis, a weakness of the muscles, she became a patient in the infirmary she knew so well in 1982. Sister Gracelma died of pneumonia Dec. 23, 1983, after a three-day illness. Her funeral was on Christmas Eve.

A few days later, the congregation received a letter from Sister's physician, Dr. Abel A. Applebaum of Toledo. He had known her for 50 years. He wrote that she had tolerated her illness "with great peace of mind," and his memory of her would be as a "fine nurse and a very lovely, intelligent and serving person."

Her ministry list		
1936-1965	1965-1982	1982-1983
Infirmery staff	Motherhouse	Motherhouse Infirmary

*\*This article originally appeared in the spring 2018 issue of the IHM Archives newsletter, Today and Yesterday. All issues of the newsletter can be accessed [here](#).*

## THEN AND NOW

### Sister Joan Mumaw

Sister Joan Mumaw hails from Marshall, a rural community in southwestern Michigan. She grew up in a happy household with three brothers and a sister, born over 17 years. People in this area are



humble, hard-working, family-oriented people of faith with high aspirations for goodness, truth, compassion and justice for the poor. Sister Joan always tries to embody these attributes. Meeting the IHMs in her early years at St. Mary's Grade School gave her a sense of Church. She learned of its mission to celebrate the singular love for all God's people. Seeds of a missionary vocation were planted early while reading a copy of *Field Afar*, the *Maryknoll* magazine, which she found at her grandmother's house.

Searching for and reflecting on ways to learn more about what makes us human and listening to an interior call, Joan entered the IHMs after a year of college in Ann Arbor. After graduating from Marygrove, Monroe campus in 1965, she began teaching in elementary schools in Detroit. She taught at Immaculata High School while pursuing a degree in cultural anthropology at Wayne State University. Joan worked in the Archives with women whom she honors as mentors in her pursuit of the goals that the Congregation sets as we walk the walk of pilgrims. [\*continued\*](#)

### Sister Mary Bea Keeley

Sister Mary Bea Keeley grew up attending Catholic schools in the Philadelphia area. The sisters "seemed joyful, had fun together, supported each other and seemed to love their ministry. I was attracted to that; I wanted to serve and teach little children." She spent 36 years with the IHM Sisters of Philadelphia, primarily as a teacher, before joining the IHM Sisters of Monroe.

In 1994, Sister was working as a high school Admission Director and had begun studying for a master's degree in holistic spirituality/spiritual direction at Chestnut Hill University. It broadened her thinking. "I encountered the importance of social justice issues, ecology and feminism. I understood how hierarchal our church, society and community are." During her internships at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, as she associated with Spiritual Directors from other congregations, Sister Mary Bea began questioning the thrust of the IHMs in Philadelphia. Having met IHMs from Monroe, she realized her thinking was more aligned with theirs. She felt welcome each time she came to Monroe and was taken by the Sisters' "feisty intellectualism."

After four years of discernment, Sister Mary Bea took a "huge jump" and joined the IHMs of Monroe.

[\*continued\*](#)



## Red Glasses Awards recognize students living boldly, loving big

Following November's presentation by Kelly Jandernoa of the Red Glasses Movement, Marian recently hosted its January Red Glasses Award Presentation to acknowledge those in the school community who embody the movement's spirit. The movement, born out of love and the resilient spirit of Audrey Louise, encourages a mindset of living boldly and loving big. Audrey, born with Down syndrome and a congenital heart defect, left an indelible mark with her contagious smile, curious mind and loving heart. The Red Glasses Movement originated in response to Audrey's passing in 2018, symbolized by the red glasses she wore. Those students and faculty recognized were:

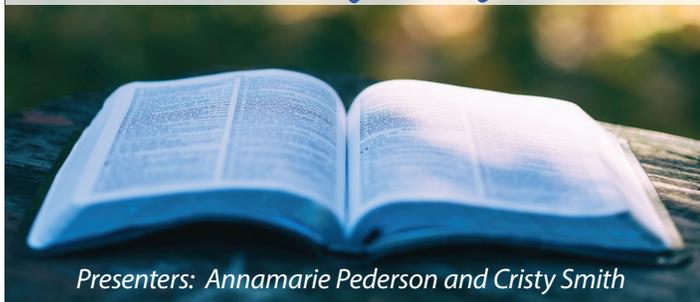


Adrianna Roye '26  
Annie Lamarche '26  
Ava Olah '25  
Caroline Torok '26  
Giuliana Agrusso '26  
Grace Callaghan '26  
Jessica Lavioe '26  
Lucy Clark '27  
Lucy Mikhail '26  
Maddie Sellke '26  
Mr. Turner  
Olivia Brook '26  
Samantha Juncaj '25  
Sienna Wilcox '26  
Trinity Thweni '26



## Reflections

**FOR A GRIEVING SOUL:**  
What does the Bible  
say about *grief*?



Presenters: Annamarie Pederson and Cristy Smith

**April 11 –  
May 9, 2024  
Thursdays**

**6:30–8:30 p.m.**

**River House  
Spirituality Center  
805 W. Elm Ave.  
Monroe, MI 48162**

**Registration Deadline:**  
April 1, 2024

**Suggested Donation:**  
\$20 to cover the cost of  
the book.

**To register,** contact River  
House IHM Spirituality  
Center at 734-240-5494 or  
[riverhouse@ihmsisters.org](mailto:riverhouse@ihmsisters.org)

Join us for a five-week Bible study as we explore what it says about grief. We will discuss the seven needs of mourning, focusing on embracing our spirituality. The themes for this series are grieving well; God knows suffering, anger, grief anxiety and most importantly, HOPE.

IHM SISTERS'  
**Thank-a-thon**

A great time was had by all at the kick-off party for the second annual Thank-a-thon. During February, many sisters and associates will call or send greeting cards to randomly selected benefactors for the purpose of thanking them for their support. We are so grateful for the kindness and generosity of our friends and benefactors.



Marilyn S. Meadows, Director of Development; Hilda Jarvis, Database Manager; Patty Poirier, Annual Giving Manager; Maxine Laine, Administrative Assistant.



The Development Team has grown. We are excited to announce two new staff members: Patty Poirier joined the team Feb. 1 as Annual Giving Manager and Maxine Laine joined us Jan. 15 as Administrative Assistant. We are looking forward to the future and success of our fundraising program.



**ROYAL BLUE**  
*Classic*

**28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**A Signature Golf Event**

**Questions?** Call 734-240-9863  
 or [development@ihmsisters.org](mailto:development@ihmsisters.org)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024**

**FOX HILLS GOLF AND BANQUET CENTER  
 PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN**

- A day of fun with friends and sisters
- Award-winning golf course
- Longest putt, closest to the pin and straightest drive skill holes
- PLINKO game hole
- Continental breakfast, grilled lunch and dinner
- 18-hole and 9-hole packages available for women's, men's and mixed teams
- 50/50 and balloon raffle
- Funds raised benefit IHM ministries

## Marygrove minute

### The School at Marygrove Elementary School open house

The Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) will open Round one admission applications for application schools, including The School at Marygrove Elementary (TSM), on Monday, Feb. 5. TSM develops critical thinkers and community-minded citizens actively participating in the creation of a just and equitable future. This elementary school is housed in the former Immaculata High building that many past Marygrove alums attended. The transformation is amazing! An in-person open house will take place Tuesday, March 19, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. TSM Elementary will enroll grades K-4 for fall 2024.



### Disney+ Documentary "Choir" Features the Detroit Youth Choir



Choir is a six-part documentary series following the local young people of the Detroit Youth Choir as they prepare for the performance of a lifetime. Through their eyes, viewers will experience the highs and lows of life growing up in Detroit, navigating the challenges of balancing family, school and athletics while pursuing their dreams of taking their talents to the next level and performing

on one of the world's biggest stages. Parts of this series were filmed at the Marygrove Conservancy campus, home of the Detroit Youth Choir. As many of you may know, the Choir director is distinguished Marygrove alum Anthony White. So, of course, Marygrove celebrates the continued success of the Detroit Youth Choir! Watch all episodes of the original "Choir" documentary series on Disney+.

### Bauder Lecture

Marygrove Legacy Team invites all alums for a major Marygrove Conservancy event! Tracy K. Smith, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and U.S. Poet Laureate (2017-2019), will be the 35th guest in the Contemporary American Authors Lecture Series (CAALS). She will deliver the Bauder Lecture in the Marygrove Conservancy Theatre at 8 p.m. Friday, April 12. After reading her poetry, she will be joined by Michigan's poet laureate, Nandi Comer, for an onstage conversation. This event is free and open to the public; please register in advance. Register and learn more about CAALS [here](#).

**Save the Date** for our next All-Alumni Reunion on Sept. 14, 2024. Special invites to the classes ending in 4 or 9, but all are welcome! Plan to see the beautiful changes on campus that are continuing the amazing Legacy of our alma mater.

### Stay in Touch

Visit [marygroveconservancy.org/stay-engaged/alumni-association/](https://marygroveconservancy.org/stay-engaged/alumni-association/) or the Facebook page, [Marygrove Alumni & Friends](#).

## For Whom the Bell Tolls

On Jan. 29, 2004, the IHM Motherhouse joined "[For Whom the Bell Tolls](#)," a national initiative opposing the death penalty. Every month for the past 20 years, an IHM Sister or a Justice Peace and Sustainability Office volunteer prepares the prayer with the names of those executed each month. Before morning liturgy on the last Wednesday of the month, the bell rings, and the name of each person executed in the United States during the month and the names of their victims are read aloud with each bell:

We pray ...

For the one who was killed in an execution chamber  
For the victim whose life was taken away in violence.  
For the family of the victim who continues to mourn.  
For the family of the one who was executed, who also continue to mourn.  
And for the state and prison employees who were asked to carry out this order of execution.  
May the ringing of this bell be a constant reminder that we are all diminished by continuing acts of state-sponsored violence in our country and in our world.



Our monthly "For Whom the Bell Tolls" reminds us to do our part to end state-sponsored violence. Hopefully, this practice will continue until the death penalty is abolished in the United States. Currently, 27 states have the death penalty.

### Reflection

Many people never consider the alternative of the death penalty ... the sentence of life without parole. Prisons are a harsh place to grow elderly. Some of the imprisoned have lived 40-50 years just waiting for death. Alaska is the only state that does not permit life without parole. Pope Francis's statement articulates it best, "Life without parole is a hidden death penalty." Learn [more](#) about elderly Americans serving life without parole.



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.

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