



IHM SISTERS
E-NEWS

May 2024



Hope springs eternal

Janet Ryan, IHM

Living through 2023, the hottest year on record contributes to the question of whether our early spring is due to El Nino or rising Earth temperatures. What will warmer temperatures mean for food production landscapes, gardens and all creatures of Earth? Why is the climate crisis now an emergency and new mitigating technology is not being fully utilized? Why are governments so slow to act?

This spring, devout Muslims Ramadan were called to fast from sunrise to sunset and Christians observed Lenten preparations for Easter. In April, the Jewish faith celebrated Passover. These and other religious faiths and Indigenous traditions view creation as revelatory of the divine, especially the spring transformation of the web of life. Spring raises questions about which rituals and traditions offer hope for the future.

The Nov. 2023 Conference Of Partners Interfaith Statement reflected these soulful yearnings, calling for a moment of truth where nations realign

ambitions so that humanity can flourish. It was one backstory in the Conference, acknowledging fossil fuel emissions as the major cause of global warming for the very first time. It was a sign of hope, but not nearly enough.

Simultaneously, global carbon emissions are skyrocketing rather than decreasing. How will the world decrease fossil fuel use when the gas and oil industries continue to drill endlessly and promote its use, especially in poorer countries? These industries are being allowed to threaten our planet's life.

Another discouraging sign is the opposition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "good neighbor rule and plan" intended to restrict smokestack emissions and decrease smog.

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Big business pushback led to an amended regulation where natural gas-fired power plants with methane emissions are exempt while fading coal-burning plants are being monitored. The Clean Air Act soot pollution standards in its 2023 strategy focused on reducing polluted areas near industrial sites. Ten states have implemented this plan and show significant reductions in nitric oxide emissions. However, 25 states immediately sued, bringing legal action against the plan. The Supreme Court is now weighing the legal validity of the plan. Will the strategy survive?



Rapid global electrification of transportation and industry holds out hope of fewer toxic emissions. Another hopeful sign is that the U.S. National Parks acknowledges the generation of 170,000 tons of carbon dioxide yearly and is immediately changing some practices. Michigan Lake Superior parks' efforts to cut emissions are due to climate warming severely threatening this lake. Diesel engines will be curtailed on Isle Royale, electric mowers, trimmers, and chainsaws will be used in

Picture Rocks National Park and solar power will be used in Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Americans will engage in another ritual of voting for elected officials this fall. Voting for officials who understand the climate emergency is a vote of hope for all creation.

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Remembering



Vickie Mazur, IHM Associate
May 10, 1954 – March 15, 2024



Eva (Mary Neuman) Schoell, IHM
March 27, 1929 - March 7, 2024



Faye Marie (Marie Denise) McFarlane, IHM
Nov. 3, 1940 - April 30, 2024

Worthy of Note from the Alphonsus Liguori Library ...

The Thursday Murder Club

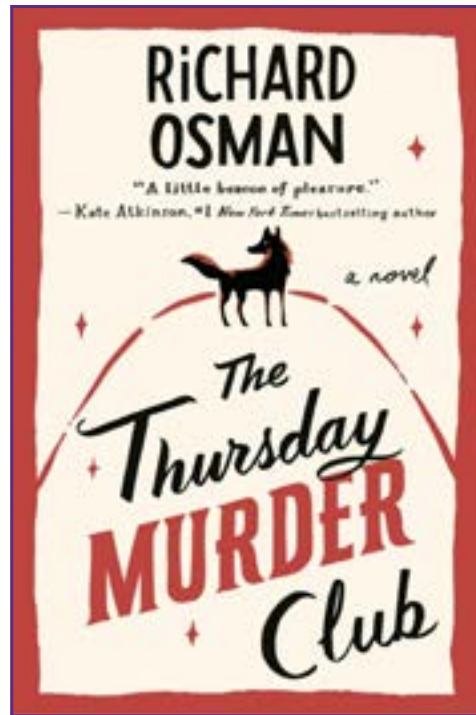
By Richard Osman

reviewed by Library Staff

People don't typically associate witty, endearing, and entertaining with murder. Unless, of course, one is referring to Richard Osman's debut novel, *The Thursday Murder Club*, in which four septuagenarian amateur sleuths meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders.

Coopers Chase is an upscale retirement community on the site of a former convent in the English countryside. The retirement facility offers its residents a wide variety of activities and the amateur sleuths meet every Thursday in the jigsaw room, "between art history and conversational french," to unravel unsolved murder cases culled from the files of a retired police officer. They book their activity's time slot under the name "Japanese Opera: a discussion," which ensures they can conduct their investigative work undisturbed.

Each of the well-developed characters brings their own skills and background to the group. Elizabeth, the driving force in the foursome and possibly a spy in her earlier life, has contacts in the government underworld and her resourcefulness in engaging them comes in handy as the story progresses. "Red" Ron Ritchie, an activist in his younger years, continues to speak his mind and bring passion to the cause. Ibrahim, a retired psychiatrist, is fastidious and methodical as he pursues his keen interest in learning about the people in the cold case files. Joyce is the most recent member of the group. A former nurse, she can easily go unnoticed while noticing everything. Joyce seems to be the unofficial scribe of the group, writing about the club's events and activities in her journal; a journal she shares with the reader.



When Tony Curran, a local builder and business partner of Ian Ventham, the conniving developer of Coopers Chase, is found bludgeoned to death, the amateur detectives seize their opportunity to become immersed in a live murder case.

Gaining information from the police becomes the foursome's first challenge, one they successfully navigate and not too soon as Curran's murder is not the last one and suspects are in no short supply.

It is the wit and plot of Osman's very British murder mystery that is captivating. It is his characters that linger. In an interview about his debut novel, Osman confessed:

I didn't write about them as older characters; I wrote about them as engaged human beings with some of the disadvantages – and advantages – that age has brought them. Basically, they can pretty much get away with anything.

The fight against plastic pollution by Danielle Conroyd

River Raisin Institute and the IHM Justice, Peace, and Sustainability Office sponsored a forum March 21, 2024, on the impact of plastics on our environment. During the discussion, Jen Shankie, Dan Rock and Danielle Conroyd discussed the environmental impact of plastics and the challenges they pose to ecosystems.

Dan Rock, Director of Recycling and Green Community Programs for Monroe County, presented compelling statistics about plastics and human health.



- The majority of burgers, steak, chicken and plant-based meats contain microplastics.
- Microplastics have been found in human breast milk for the first time.
- There is an alarming amount of plastics in bottled water.
- Microplastics have been found in the human heart for the first time.
- Every square mile of ocean contains 46,000 pieces of floating plastic garbage.
- We breathe in about 16 bits of microplastic every hour, the equivalent of a credit card each week.
- People in the U.S. consume about 39,000 to 52,000 particles of microplastics every year through food and water.

Dan also spoke about recent regulations addressing the plastics crisis. The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2023 reduces the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging and improves producers' responsibility in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of consumer products and packaging. 90% of plastic is made from oil and gas, fueling the climate crisis. Less than 10% of all plastics ever produced have been recycled. Companies continue to promote plastic recycling as the solution while producing more plastic. Waste management systems cannot cope with the exponential rise in plastic production and waste. The only way to end plastic pollution is to reduce plastic production dramatically. Attendees also heard about innovative solutions and initiatives aimed at reducing plastic usage:

- Northwestern University chemists have developed a new catalyst that quickly, cleanly and completely breaks down Nylon-6, a plastic found in fishing nets, carpets and garments, in a matter of minutes without generating harmful byproducts.
- The Sea Cleaners introduced a bold and original project: the Manta. This first-of-a-kind processing ship is designed to collect, treat, and repurpose large volumes of floating plastic debris present in highly polluted waters, along the coasts, in estuaries, and the mouth of large rivers.

What Can you do to tackle the plastic pollution crisis head-on and ignite positive change?

- Encourage your local and national representatives to implement bans on single-use plastics
- Support the Break Free From Plastic Act and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). These policies can drastically reduce waste at the source.
- Support companies who commit to sustainability and use eco-friendly materials and sustainable packaging.
- Education and collective action are vital in changing public attitudes toward waste. Get involved in community-led efforts.

*originally published in **River Raisin Institute's** [April newsletter](#)*

There's still time to register

Sponsorship opportunities are available and gift-in-kind donations are gladly received. Please call 734-240-9863



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or 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
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- 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

Inspirational Giving

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Annual Report | 2022-2023



To peruse the annual report
click on the cover image



"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."
— Mother Teresa of Calcutta

She, who watches over us from the Archives department

A five- to six-foot-tall statue of the Blessed Mother that has watched over the IHM community since 1869 crashed to the ground and shattered on March 10 outside the rear door to the Chapel. The statue had a crown of stars and an open-hand stance. The pieces were discovered in the early morning on the grass and sidewalk near what is now the workspace for the IHM Amazon bookstore. Amazingly, her face remained intact.

The hollow statue was made from layers of hammered zinc. Steve Grigsby, Director of Campus Operations, said the number of small pieces collected makes it impossible to reassemble the statue. He says part of the base is still attached to the roof, and it appeared the statue simply came loose and toppled.

This was the third location for this rendering of the Blessed Mother. At first she was attached to the cupola of the Old Motherhouse, located where St. Mary's parking lot is now. It was relocated to the present Motherhouse during its construction in 1932 and placed on the north veranda, where an old bell was also mounted. When the Chapel was built in 1938, the statue was moved a final time. Constructed in Belgium, the statue was a gift to Msgr. Edward Joos from his friend Father Desiderius Callaert, a fellow Belgian and pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Carleton. moved one final time. Constructed in Belgium, the statue was a gift to Msgr. Edward Joos from his friend Father Desiderius Callaert, a fellow Belgian and pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Carleton.



From the archives... a look back **The great chase: IHMs and their Ph.Ds.**

It all started with the discovery that among the multiple boxes of Margaret Brennan's documents and publications in the IHM Archives, we could not locate a copy of her dissertation.

Margaret received her Ph.D. from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, in 1953 – the first IHM to earn a doctorate in theology and one of the first women to ever do so. I emailed the school's archives in early January and shortly thereafter received a reply and a scanned copy of "The Immaculate Heart of Mary is the Seat of Wisdom by which All Men are Led to Knowledge of the Truth." Mission accomplished—or was it? This endeavor raised an obvious and nagging question: What other dissertations are missing from our collection? I had to know—and then I had to find them!

So, using an index created by Diann Cousino of all theses and dissertations housed in the Archives and some investigative work by Deb Saul of all the doctorate degrees earned by IHMs over the years, I compared what we could have with what we actually had. Wow. All our data (assembled from various archival records) led us to a sum of 22 dissertations by IHM Sisters that we did not have, which felt like a real gap in our collection. We chose to focus primarily on those of deceased sisters and any others that might be easily accessible. I reached out to a former colleague from my days as a college librarian and was able to acquire electronic copies of seven dissertations available to researchers through a service called ProQuest. I then obtained scanned copies of four others from very accommodating library staff members at Saint Louis University, Fordham, and Penn and purchased a hard copy of yet another from a used book website called Alibris. It was money well spent.

This brought the number down to a modest total of just 10 dissertations, all written by living sisters, that are not yet in the IHM Archives. Considering the large number of doctorates earned by IHM scholars – among them Doctor of Philosophy, education, ministry, divinity, sacred theology, and juris doctorates – that's not bad. Of course, we would welcome, with relief and satisfaction, the final 10 to make our collection complete.

For the Record:

- IHM-earned master's degrees: 517
- IHM-earned doctorates: 82
- First Ph.D. earned by an IHM: Sister Mary McGrath, 1923, Catholic University
- Most recent Ph.D. earned by an IHM: Sister Lisandra Pedraza, 2006, Ohio State University
- Most distant study site: Sister Judith Coyle, 2004, University of South Africa

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



Then & Now

Sister Anne Wisda



During the "Mary Weekend" in my junior year of high school, I had a brief interview with Mother Teresa McGivney. She was gentle and kind. Throughout high school, I truly felt called to become an IHM Sister. I informed my parents and on Aug. 19, 1952, my mother, father and entire family accompanied me to Monroe. After my formation years, I became an elementary teacher. At the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, I was sent to Florida to teach Cuban refugees. Most of my 50 first graders did not speak English and I did not speak Spanish.

In 1969, I was invited by my Mission Counselor to minister as a Religious Education Coordinator in Burnsville, Minnesota. One of my teachers worked with orphans in Vietnam through Friends for All Children. In 1974, she invited me to assist with the orphans. A few days before Christmas, we accompanied three infants and two toddlers on their journey to their adopting American families. Vietnam was a heart-wrenching experience for me. My brief ministry there changed me forever. I became aware of the injustices of poverty and war. After the collapse of Saigon in 1975, I became the Director of the Refugee Resettlement Program at Catholic Social Ministries in Oklahoma City. My ministry with Indochinese refugees took me to Korea to process Vietnamese refugees out of the camp in Pusan.

[continued ...](#)

Sister Ann Nett

I was born on Nov. 24, 1940, the first child of my mother, Clara and her second husband, Gordon Nett (the nephew of her first husband.) My mother's first husband was August Nett, with whom she had five sons, three of whom served in WWII. When August died, their youngest son was only six months old. Unfortunately, her second marriage ended in divorce in the late 1940s due to my father's alcoholism.

I attended St. Catherine Catholic School on Detroit's east side for 12 years. Until we moved, we lived only one block from my school. I hoped to enter the convent after graduation, but my mother opposed the idea. My brother closest to me in age had been helping to support the family and it was my turn. I began working as a cashier at the A&P Supermarket (the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company). I was there for four years. The idea of joining the IHMs stayed with me and my mother finally agreed I could join the order in September 1962.

I did my student teaching in a first-grade classroom at St. Thomas Grade School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. My first mission was a third-grade class at Holy Name School in Birmingham, Michigan. I was there for two years. In 1970, I taught third and eighth grades at La Merced in Cayey, Puerto Rico. After a year there, I went to Brazil. [continued ...](#)



Marygrove minute

Calling all Marygrove Alums! Save the Date: Sept. 14, 2024

Mark your calendars, Marygrove Alums! The 2024 All-Class Reunion of Marygrove College, a momentous event that brings together alumni from all years, is set to take place on the campus of the Marygrove Conservancy Saturday, Sept. 14. We extend a special invitation to those with a 5-year anniversary of graduation, and those whose graduation years end in 4 and 9. This is a unique opportunity to reconnect with old friends and celebrate the enduring legacy of education at Marygrove. The day will be filled with engaging activities, including a luncheon in the Main Dining Room featuring guest speakers from the Marygrove Conservancy. The detailed schedule and speaker lineup will be included in the forthcoming invitation, which will be emailed to you and post-ed on the Alumni webpage. Don't miss out on this unforgettable event!



Besides recognizing our special relationship with the Marygrove Conservancy and The School at Marygrove, we will celebrate the second graduating class from the high school! This year's graduation will be held June 4, 2024, at the Detroit Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts. Your Alumni Association is proud to donate a \$500 Scholarship to two TSM Seniors who demonstrate the Marygrove values of Competence, Compa-sion and Commitment. Also, The School at Marygrove recently walked away with a major prize in a robotics competition. The FIRST Impact Award honors the robotics team, representing a model for other teams to emulate and embody FIRST's purpose and goals, allowing STEM principles to work in sports-like settings. The School at Marygrove High School team's win at a recent Wayne State University event qualifies them to compete in the Michigan District Championship. Principal Lisa Williams tells us that this team, just 2 years old, is the first Detroit public school team to win the award. "We are making change happen," she said.

- Our Reunion Committee is looking for volunteers and welcomes any input on this event. Marygrove, then and now, we salute you!
- **Please feel free to contact:**
Chair, Liz Poliuto Loria '70, lorializ@gmail.com 248-318-0012
Class of 1974 Rep: Lula Gallman Mbek, lgmbek@yahoo.com
Class of 1984 Rep: Angela Morris Johnson, angelajohnson0002@gmail.com
- Invitations and registration info will be sent via email, so update your email with us at alumni@marygroveconservancy.org. As always, check out our Facebook page at Marygrove Alumni & Friends.

Sending wishes for a beautiful spring wherever you are!

Lenore Pochelski, IHM, looks back on her legacy

Former Head of School Lenore Pochelski, IHM, was recently inducted into the Marian Athletics Hall of Fame. The [2024 Marian Athletic Club \(MAC\) Hall of Fame celebration](#) occurred on Sunday, March 24, 2024.



Sr. Lenore, congratulations on your induction! Throughout your remarkable 31-year tenure, you played a pivotal role in shaping the athletic program. What inspired you to dedicate yourself to the growth and development of Marian's athletics?

LP: When I joined Marian 32 years ago, I found purpose in advancing Marian's mission of empowering young women. The school's foundation emphasized a well-rounded education, and our mission to nurture the whole person resonated deeply with me. I witnessed how athletics and Marian's vast co-curricular offerings contributed to team building, learning from failure, and fostering cooperative skills essential for personal growth.

As the Head of School, you spearheaded advancements and improvements to the athletic facilities, including constructing a state-of-the-art gymnasium. How do you believe this has enhanced the overall experience of student-athletes?

LP: Updating our facilities was vital for accommodating the diverse interests of our students. Access to quality facilities supports athletic development and enhances the overall student experience, attracting students from various backgrounds who seek both academic and athletic excellence. The gym's building as it now stands was part of Marian's Tradition & Vision campaign, which started in the last 90s to enhance facilities and provide space for academics, athletics, and performing arts to coexist and excel. For Marian's mission to be successful, we needed the best facilities possible for our young women to excel in their chosen areas of focus. Access to high-quality facilities supports athletic development and enhances the overall student experience, attracting students seeking a well-rounded education.

You witnessed numerous achievements and memorable moments in Marian's athletics. What standout moments or accomplishments resonate with you the most?

LP: While championships and victories are certainly celebrated, what truly stands out is the provision of top-notch facilities that align with our students' aspirations. Marian's commitment to holistic education epitomizes creating an environment where athletes and performers can thrive without compromise. Witnessing Marian's students utilize these resources has been a highlight of my tenure.

Beyond the accolades and championships, how do you believe athletic participation aligns with Marian's mission of empowering young women to live responsible lives of leadership and action based on Gospel values?

LP: Participation in athletics aligns seamlessly with Marian's mission by instilling values such as teamwork, resilience, and humility—essential qualities for responsible leadership. Athletics provides a platform where students learn to navigate success and setbacks, preparing them to lead with compassion and integrity. By fostering an environment where every individual can embrace challenges and contribute meaningfully to their communities, athletics empower young women to live out Marian's Gospel values in their daily lives.

continued...

As you reflect on your remarkable career, what legacy do you hope to leave in the hearts and minds of students, athletes, and the Marian community?

LP: My aspiration is for my legacy at Marian to reflect a commitment to providing equal opportunities for all students to thrive academically, spiritually, athletically and artistically. The construction of the gymnasium, theater, and commons symbolize Marian's dedication to fostering an inclusive environment where every individual can pursue their passions without limitation. Ultimately, I hope to have left behind a legacy that inspires future generations of Marian students to confidently proclaim: "Young women can."



"Often it is better simply to slow down, to put aside our eagerness in order to see and listen to others."
- Pope Francis



Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

On the IHM website

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