



2024
Retirement Appeal

Many of our retired sisters live independently, while others require skilled care, memory care or assisted living services. Sisters with memory loss live in a supportive environment tailored to their needs, costing nearly \$7,087 per month. Those residing in assisted living maintain independence with healthcare support at \$6,141 per month. Others receive skilled nursing care at \$11,327 per month, while sisters in independent living enjoy private rooms and shared amenities for \$2,163 per month. As the cost of quality care continues to rise, the IHM congregation faces growing financial challenges. Ever-increasing costs of daily living are met by careful use of our sisters' earnings, Social Security and gifts to the retirement appeal.

**During this season of giving thanks,
we ask you to consider a gift to this year's retirement appeal.
We rely on your generosity and loyal support
to help bridge the gap between our financial resources
and the actual cost of retirement.**

By the Numbers

Currently, there are
186 sisters in the congregation.

96 retired sisters
live at IHM Senior Living Community.

Their median age is **87**
and **31** of those sisters are between **90** and **100**.

90 active and retired sisters
reside in the communities they serve.

Their median age is **80**.

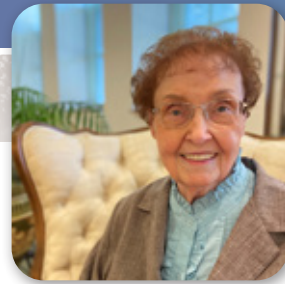
How beautiful it is to honor those who have given a lifetime of service and dedication.

The retired sisters highlighted in this brochure remain deeply committed to their calling. Through prayer, spiritual guidance and various ministries, they continue to serve their communities, offering support in many ways. Their commitment to faith and mission persists, demonstrating that ministry is not bound by age but by an enduring passion for service.

Sister Mary Katherine (Michael Andrew) Hamilton



Sister Mary Katherine grew up in Ann Arbor, Mich., and was taught by the IHM Sisters at St. Thomas the Apostle School. Even as a young child, she admired the connection the sisters had with their students, their authenticity and their accessibility. "By my sophomore year, I think I just sort of knew that this was my path and entered the IHM community right after high school," said Sister Mary Katherine. Her first ministry, teaching middle schoolers, was at St. Regis in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. In 1978, she joined other IHM Sisters at St. Stephen's Mission on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. Two years later, she moved into the principalship at Our Lady of Miracles in Gustine, Calif. While there, she earned a doctorate in educational administration from the University of San Francisco, which led to 10 years as a professor at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. In 2000, she was elected to IHM leadership and served as vice president of the congregation for six years. She then spent 12 years at Marygrove College in Detroit as an associate professor of education. Currently, she is involved in volunteer activities in Detroit and is exploring a call to "itinerate discipleship," serving wherever needed and collaborating with others to envision an emerging future. Reflecting on her 60 years as an IHM Sister, she shared, **"The community has gifted me with great opportunities. The journey I felt I wanted to make, I needed to make with others who were on the same journey."**



Sister Margaret (Margaret Leo) Cannelle

Sister Margaret was born in River Rouge, Mich., during the Great Depression and attended Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. Before entering the IHM community, she sang opera in the Detroit Founders Guild, where her lifelong love of opera grew. During this time, she felt a call to religious life, inspired by Sister Francis de Sales and other IHM Sisters who taught her. She followed the call and joined the congregation in 1948. Sister Margaret earned a bachelor's degree from Marygrove College and Master of Science degree from Wayne State University. She taught students from second grade through high school, as well as adult education, in Michigan, Ohio and Alabama. Before retiring, she served as a pastoral minister at St. Clare de Montefalco in Grosse Pointe. Sister Margaret recently celebrated 75 years as an IHM Sister. Reflecting on her journey, she shared, **"I try to see God's presence in everyone and live with a spirit of deep gratitude, graciously accepting the challenges of my elder years."**

Sister Carolyn (William Mary) Campbell



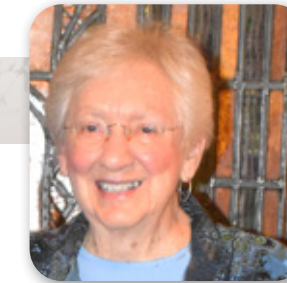
Sister Carolyn felt called to religious life when she was just 10 years old. She grew up in Jackson, Mich., and was taught by IHM Sisters at St. John's. Later, she entered the IHM community and knew she was where she belonged. Her experience teaching second and seventh grades gave her the skills needed to teach junior high and become a principal in Puerto Rico during the transformative years of Vatican II. She later spent time studying at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio before helping to set up an overseas mission office in New York. After serving as principal at St. Michael in Miami, she returned to Michigan to be principal at St. Albert the Great. She then completed a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program and ministered as a chaplain at Mercy Memorial Hospital in Monroe. She later served as part of the IHM Leadership Council during the renovation of the Motherhouse. Sister Carolyn said, **"Those years deepened my admiration for the sisters, as we all came together in crowded conditions, fostering a true spirit of community and sacrifice."** After her leadership term, she returned to Mercy Memorial Hospital and eventually moved to the Motherhouse, where she continues to use her CPE training. Sister Carolyn has been an IHM Sister for 70 years.

Sister Janet Sullivan



Born in Canada, Sister Janet was the 10th child of a dozen born into a traditional Irish Catholic family. When she was just a year old her family moved to Michigan, where she later attended St. Cecilia in Detroit. In 1944, she followed four of her older sisters – Margaret, Genevieve, Angela and Marie Sylvia – and joined the IHM community. All her ministry years were spent in Michigan. She taught elementary grades for more than 25 years and served as principal at St. John, Fenton, for five years. In 1973, she transitioned into pastoral ministry, spending 40 years in that role. Her longest-serving assignment was nearly 27 years at St. Lawrence Parish, Utica. Although letting go of active ministry was difficult, Sister Janet shared, "I believe God gives us the strength to know when change is needed." In 2014, she returned to the Motherhouse, where she was warmly welcomed by her sisters and friends. Sister Janet recently celebrated 80 years as an IHM Sister. **"There is no way I can enumerate the hundredfold blessings I receive each day. I thank God for the many gifts and joys of my 80 years as an IHM."**

Sister Joan Chicoine



Sister Joan was born in 1940 in Barton, Vermont, but spent her early years in Sidon, Lebanon. She was educated in a one-room schoolhouse near a refugee camp, where witnessing poverty firsthand ignited her passion for helping others. After returning to the U.S., she studied music education at the University of Vermont. She then taught choral music and drama in New York state public school, where she found joy in helping students experience music's connection to the Divine. In 1969, she earned a master's degree in voice from Boston University College of Fine Arts and pursued a career as a professional performer. After experiencing firsthand the struggles artists face, she felt called to help them and went on to earn a master's in counseling psychology from Boston College. Specializing in Jungian psychology, she opened a private practice, supporting artists in exploring the unconscious mind, symbols and dreams to deepen their spiritual journey. A vocation retreat led her to join the IHM Sisters in 1999, drawn by their commitment to social justice and prayer. Reflecting on 25 years as an IHM Sister, she said, **"I am deeply grateful for the time and space to listen to God within myself and through music, symbols and dreams and for the opportunity to walk alongside others in their spiritual growth."**

IHM Congregational Expenses

FISCAL YEAR 2024

Health Care, Retirement
and Services

94%

Management and
General Expenses

5%

Development and
Fundraising Expenses

1%

Our retired sisters continue to serve as:

- Special advocates for children and seniors
- Spiritual directors
- Lectors and Eucharistic ministers
- Armchair activists for justice and peace
- Tour docents
- Chaplains
- Anti-human trafficking advocates
- Office assistants
- Health care volunteers
- Jail ministers
- Nursing home volunteers
- Substitute teachers
- Tutors
- Medical appointment companions
- Video technicians
- Mail sorters
- Readers for the visually challenged
- Seamstresses
- Shoppe volunteers
- Writers
- Service Office volunteers
- Committee and board members
- Prayer leaders
- Funeral and Remembering coordinators
- Gardeners
- Sacristans and Chapel ambiance
- Librarians
- Grant writers

ON THE COVER: Sister Julia Ann (Celine Therese) Weirick



IHM Development Office • 610 West Elm Ave. • Monroe, MI 48162
734-240-9860 • ihmsisters.org