

TODAY AND YESTERDAY

A COLLECTION OF RECENT DISCOVERIES AND
ACTIVITIES IN THE IHM ARCHIVES

Maiden Voyages: a journey of firsts

Everything started somewhere, sometime. This year's Founders' Day exhibit takes us back to many beginnings.

The first habit, name, and home. First impressions recorded of the new Motherhouse, chapel, and Visitation. The first missions, plane ride, and centenarian.

The idea for the exhibit grew from one first idea: the first missions of all of today's Sisters. In photos and words, all are included, from Alys Currier and Eileen Houlihan teaching in 1945 to Jane Aseltyne at "A Nun's Life" in 2017. The exhibit will be up through Jan. 17.



Sister Rebecca Vonderhaar
studies the poster collages of the
Sisters' first missions.

A Flurry of Firsts:

- We are closer than ever to pinpointing the location of the Sisters' first home: the log cabin. Check out the map and photos in relation to St. Mary's Church.
- Mother Teresa McGivney had an unusual number of 'firsts,' at least six. See her passport and read her description of meeting Pope Pius XII.
- Before IHM, they were the Sisters of Providence. See the Rule and Constitution, in French, for *Des Soeurs de la Providence*.

The 1846 sampler

A special addition to the exhibit is the 1846 embroidered sampler done by the Sisters of Providence student Victoria Godfroy. We have this irreplaceable needlework for display thanks to a

**See a photo
on Page 2**

loan by the Monroe County Historical Museum and County Historian Lynn Reaume.

The words the student used to introduce herself are: "Monroe December 1st 1846. Victoria Godfroy wrought this in her 8th year at the Sis of Procvce school"

That's the 8th year of her life, not the 8th year of schooling. Victoria was the niece of the fourth member of the community, Josette (Sister Alphonsine) Godfroy-Smyth.



The 11x21-inch sampler shows Victoria's handiwork in animals, flowers, the alphabet and a structure.

Catherine Kerwin's singular tale of 'homes'

In 1982, Sisters gathered to share their memories of the 1929 fire and early days in community. The cassette tapes recorded this story from Catherine Kerwin, who entered in 1933.

"I always claim that I lived in all the buildings except the log cabin. I went to the Hall of the Divine Child in fourth, fifth and sixth grade. I went to the old Academy that burned seventh and eighth grade. And I was there for the fire. ... And then I lived in the old building, in the convent on the river in ninth grade. The novices and postulants doubled up and let the seventh,

eighth and ninth grade at the Academy move in where the novices had been, old St. Edward's Hall, and that first-floor long corridor of private rooms, Immaculate Heart dormitory, at the top of the stairs. Then I was at Marygrove in tenth and eleventh grade. Marygrove Sisters very graciously moved to the attic to sleep and the basement to eat and let the Academy girls have their beautifully arranged faculty corridor. ... Then I came back to Monroe and I graduated from the new building, the Academy, my senior year. So, I've been everywhere but the log cabin!"



Mechtilde (Catherine) Kerwin in 1935

Revisiting Sisters' Christmas poetry

Magnificat

Out of your tender mercies, my God,
I lovingly lift up the years.

Child in me claps and dances;
Joy in the woman breaks soundless
Too deep for laughter or tears.

I flounder for words to thank you
And offer my silence for song.

— Eleanor Fitzgibbons, IHM

Be Simple and Wise

Stay with the shepherds,
be simple as they;
Ride with the Wise Men
across desert waste
and be not wiser,
But with them, with joy
make haste to the mystery
of Christmas Day!

— Agnes Gibney, IHM
1976

New in Archives:

Formation scrapbook

Sister Mary Ann Bredice was surprised recently going through things her mother had saved, things she hadn't known about. Put together with her own mementoes, she realized she had a near-complete view of Formation, 1965-1970 style.

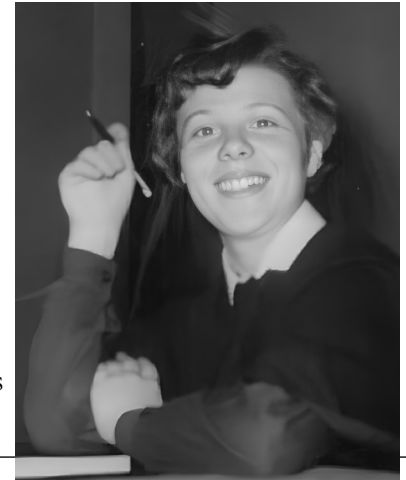
“What stood out to me was knowing about the communications that went to parents. A door seemed to always be open to parents.”

Letters to parents spelled out when they could visit or call, when the girls would write, and what would be expected of the postulants in those first years: “We appreciate the sacrifices that you are making in giving your daughter to God.”

She gathered everything into a three-ring binder to be preserved in the Archives.

Lists of what to bring are included and the six Hs of an IHM Sister: heart, head, health, home, humor, and heroism.

Please enjoy more samples from Mary Ann's scrapbook on this issue's EXTRA pages.



DEAR MARY ANN,

IT IS WITH SINCERE JOY THAT I WRITE TO TELL YOU THAT REVEREND MOTHER ANNA MARIE HAS ACCEPTED YOU AS A POSTULANT AT ST. MARY'S. WE WILL EXPECT YOU AT 2:00 ON SEPTEMBER 7TH. WE ASK YOU TO PRAY EARNESTLY

Sisters

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Helen Ambrose | Marie Hope | Luanne Marie |
| Philip Anne | Margaret Joseph | Bernadette Mary |
| Joseph Anthony | María Joseph | Joseph Mary |
| Benjamin | Marie Kateri | Robert Mary |
| Cecilia | Lauren | Ann Maura |
| John Christine | Laurette | Miriam |
| Danielle | Francis Louise | Joseph Paul |
| James David | Paul Louise | Marie Peter |
| Joseph David | John Margaret | Anne Raphael |
| Diane | Ruth Marian | Rosalita |
| Gertrude | Bridget Marie | Ann Rene |
| Grace | Jacqueline Marie | Charles Therese |
| Helen | Lenore Marie | John Thomas |

Dear Mom, Dad and Rick,
This is sort of our "announcement" - all the Sisters making First Profession.
Pray for us that we be the Religions The Church and The World need Today.
Love,
Mary Ann

Among Ourselves



The International Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue was in the Motherhouse foyer during the St. Mary Academy Alumnae Day, May 9, 1992. These five Sisters, all of whom had duties on campus, are (left to right) Sisters Marie Gerald Murphy (St. Mary Center receptionist), Flora Brennan (tutor), Audrey Cousino (sacristan), Marie Ouellette (driver), and Marie Crepeau (switchboard/driver).

The IHM Archives seeks to preserve any and all materials that document the history of the IHM Sisters. Please contact the Archivist if you have items to donate or have questions about the types of items appropriate for the collection.

Today and Yesterday is published quarterly by the IHM Archives department

*Archivist: Jennifer Meacham,
jmeacham@ihmsisters.org*

Editor: Deborah Saul, dsaul@ihmsisters.org

Back issues of Today and Yesterday are available at ihmsisters.org under the heading "History and Archives."



610 W. Elm Ave.

Monroe, MI 48162

www.ihmsisters.org

Phone: 734-240-9695

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Formation Scrapbook sampling

+ immaculate Heart of Mary
Novitiate ++

+ Nativity
September 8, 1966

As I write I am reminded that today is an anniversary for your daughter. One or two years ago she spent her first full day as a Postulant. I hope you have seen, as I have, continued growth in happiness, holiness and wholesomeness. In a few days sixty-four young women will join our family as Postulants. We wait eagerly for them and ask your prayers for Sisters, Fathers and Mothers. You know what it means and the struggles connected with parting. May the good Lord shower His help on them and let these parents and you see how worthwhile the suffering is.

But life is not only separation and we have seriously discussed in our Novitiate community your family visit at your home. Your daughter will present the details. We want it to be a joyful experience for all included. Besides having me home my family always found the added feature that such housecleaning was never carried out before: cupboards cleaned, windows washed, etc. Seriously, please do not wear yourself out but enjoy a day with your Novice-daughter.

Today is the birthday of Our Lady. As we rejoice in her birth we ask this loving Mother to guide and inspire our home here and yours. We ask too that our common bond, your daughter, draw us closer together toward increased understanding and love. We ask your help in your daughter's formation. She has come to be a religious, a Sister Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a saint. We thank God our Father for you because you somehow have inspired her to this ideal. It is my prayer too that all of us help her toward this goal. For this she was given to us.

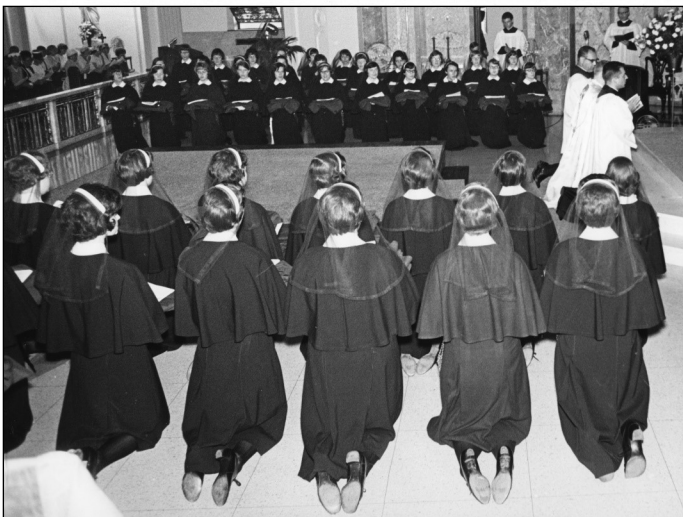
Our gratitude for all your generosity to us.

Sincerely yours in Our Lady,

Sister Mary Immaculate

Sister Mary Immaculate McDevitt

Sister Joseph Ann Farran



*the Sisters,
Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
invite you to be present
on the joyous occasion of the
Religious Investiture of Mary Ann Bredice
in the Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Monroe, Michigan
at two o'clock June 28, 1966*

What to bring: bathrobe, brassieres, tennis racket

WARDROBE LIST

TO BE PURCHASED HERE:

UNDERWEAR, NIGHTGOWNS, VEIL, STOCKINGS \$30.00

YOU BRING WITH YOU:

- BATHROBE - ANY COLOR
- TOWELS - LARGE SIZE, ANY COLOR (PLACE TAPE FOR HANGING ON CENTER EDGE OF THE NARROW SIDE.)
- WASHCLOTHS
- 10 LARGE SIZE WHITE HANDKERCHIEFS
- WARM BLANKET
- LAUNDRY BAG
- BLACK SUITCASE - MEDIUM SIZE (OR BLUE)
- PAIR BLACK OXFORDS - (PLEASE NO CREPE OR RUBBER SOLES)
- GIRDLES - NOT CARRYER BELTS
- BRASSIERES
- PAIR BEDROOM SLIPPERS - ANY COLOR
- PAIR RUBBERS
- SANITARY BELTS
- BLACK UMBRELLA
- BRIGHT WOOLEN SCARF FOR WINTER HEAD COVERING
- PEN AND PENCIL
- BLACK ROSARY - NOT STERLING SILVER
- PLAIN, SIMPLE SEWING BOX WITH FURNISHINGS
- BLACK SLIPS
- GINGHAM APRONS (TWO WIDTHS 36" GATHERED ON WAIST BAND, TIED OR BUTTONED IN THE BACK, TWELVE INCHES FROM THE FLOOR.)

ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS YOU MAY BRING: ~~STATIONERY, STAMPS, TOOTH BRUSHES, TOOTH PASTE, CLOTHES BRUSH, SOAP, SOAP DISH, TOILET CASE, COMB AND BRUSH, NAIL FILE, STAND-UP MIRROR, BLENDERENT, SANITARY NAPKINS, SHAMPOO, (IN RUBBER OR PLASTIC BOTTLES PLEASE), BOBBY PINS, CURLERS, SMALL POCKET COMB, A HOME PERMANENT FOR FUTURE USE, ETC.~~

deal soap men

(THESE CAN BE REPLENISHED FROM TIME TO TIME)

YOU WILL NEED 200 SEW-ON NAME TAPES (STYLE 45, RED ON WHITE TAPE). USE THE ORDER BLANK ATTACHED TO THIS SHEET FOR PROMPT SURE SERVICE. MARK ALL CLOTHING ON THE CORNER OF THE MATERIAL, OR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BACK OF THE COLLAR ON CAPE AND BLOUSES. PLEASE SEND US 50 OF YOUR NAME TAPES AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THEM.

PLEASE:

SEND US A STATEMENT FROM YOUR DENTIST SAYING THAT YOUR DENTAL WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED. HAVE DISEASED TONSILS REMOVED. IF YOU WEAR GLASSES, HAVE YOUR EYES CHECKED IF NEEDED. NEW FRAMES OF GLASSES SHOULD BE PLAIN OR LIGHT COLORED.

CONTRIBUTION TOWARD EDUCATION:

- THREE-RING NOTEBOOK (8 1/2 x 11) FOR CLASSWORK
 - SAINT ANDREW MISSAL WITH LATIN - RED EDGES OR ANY TYPE MISSAL.
 - SHORT BREVINARY - PUBLISHED BY ST. JOHN'S ABBEY, COLLEGEVILLE, MINN. (NOT GOLD EDGES) (NEW EDITION)
 - HOLY BIBLE - BENZIGER SCHOOL EDITION
 - LITTLE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - HERDER PUBLICATION - ENGLISH & LATIN
- YOU MAY WANT TO PURCHASE THIS BOOK AT: McDEVITT BOOKSHOP
OR ORDER FROM: WASHINGTON BLVD.: DETROIT, MICHIGAN
HERDER AND HERDER CO. 15 S. BROADWAY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

YOU MAY BRING TENNIS SHOES, TENNIS RACKETS, BADMINTON RACKETS, ROLLER SKATES, OR OTHER SPORTS EQUIPMENT IF YOU WISH. ALSO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IF YOU PLAY.