



## State historical marker to be placed at the site of the old log cabin

By Jennifer Meacham, Archivist, IHM Sisters

In late February, we in the Archives received the joyous and welcome news that the Michigan Historical Commission approved our request for a state historical marker to commemorate the IHM Sisters' contributions and legacy. This year marks the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the congregation. And while the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw IHM ministries spread across the United States and overseas, no state, province or village has benefited more from the congregation's efforts than their birthplace and home, Michigan.

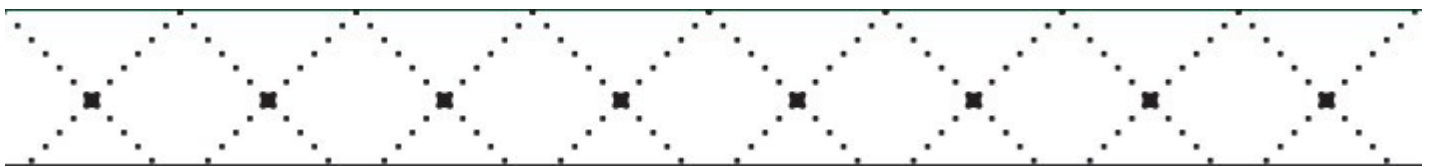
Last August, the staff of the IHM Archives applied to the Michigan Historical Commission to request a marker for the site of the original IHM convent and girls' school in what is now St. Mary Park, across from St. Mary Catholic Central High School. In addition to historical evidence of IHM contributions to the state of

Michigan, the application required an extensive narrative to support why the location of the congregation's funding is "significant and worthy of being recognized."

Our submission concluded this way:

"The site upon which the requested historical marker would be placed is the approximate location of the Sisters' original dwelling and schoolhouse, known simply as the 'log cabin.' From these humble beginnings, this congregation of religious women endured the hardships of frontier life, the scourges of tuberculosis and influenza, anti-parochial school movements, the devastating fire that destroyed the second St. Mary Academy, financial risks and losses, the changes ushered in by the Second Vatican Council and declining membership. Yet their contributions to the intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of the people of Michigan

*Continued ...*



*State historical marker continued ...*



*The marker will be placed in the general vicinity shown here.  
Stay tuned for an announcement of the installation!*

far outweigh all they have overcome. A marker upon these grounds commemorates neither a military victory nor an architectural marvel. Rather, in what is now a city park, it recognizes the birth of a sisterhood of educators – women of the deepest faith who devote their adult lives

to the care, training and advocacy of generations of Michiganders. "

While no one at the Michigan Historical Commission confirmed this, we like to think our application was somewhat unusual. To accompany several historical articles about IHM Sisters as educators in the late 19th and early 20th century, we also submitted a 468-page spiral-bound book. The contents of this weighty tome? A comprehensive

list of all IHM ministries in the state of Michigan from 1846 to 2024. Too much? We don't think so.

With the enthusiastic support of the City of Monroe and Mayor Robert Clark, we anticipate the installation of this marker in the fall of 2025.



## Ablazing Grace

Kindness and goodness are the matches,  
You and I, we and they, are the brush.  
Relationships become the kindling wood.

Embers of courage, community, and change  
stoke the potential for new life.

My heart is afire as slowly arising from the ashes  
are sacred beings.

You and I, we and they, bursting forth Christ  
in today's chaotic world!

The flames of love embracing the needs of all.

Arise, O transformed ones, arise and create anew!

**B. J. (Betty Jane) Schlachter, IHM Associate**



## Worthy of Note from the Alphonsus Liguori Library ...

### *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*

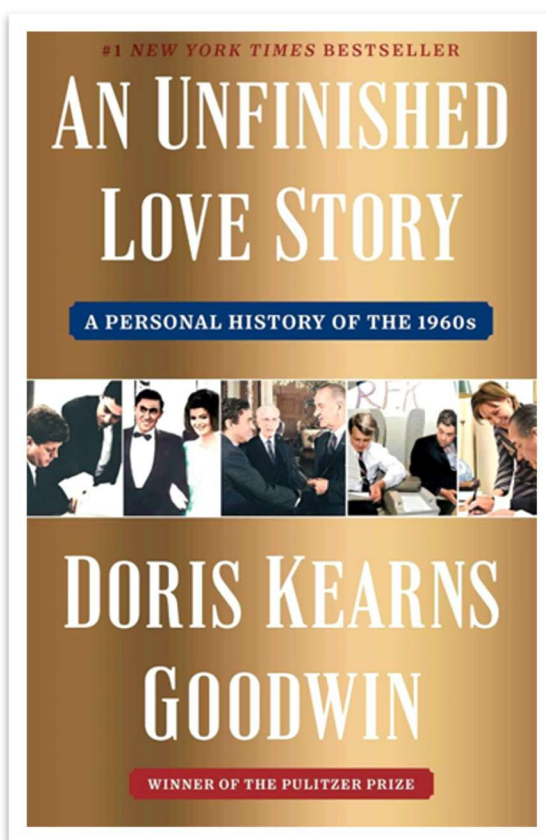
By Doris Kearns Goodwin and reviewed by library staff

Doris Kearns Goodwin's newest book, *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*, might be likened to a Sankofa bird, a symbol from the Akan people of Ghana that emphasizes the wisdom of learning from the past to build a strong future. With her own feet firmly planted forward, Kearns Goodwin turns her head backward, offering both memoir and narrative history invitation and challenge.

As memoir and invitation, Kearns Goodwin welcomes readers "behind the scenes" to an ambitious project she and her late husband, Richard ("Dick"), undertook in the years before his death in 2018. During the 1960s, Goodwin, in his early twenties, served as a speechwriter and advisor in both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

In 1965, after leaving the White House, he helped orchestrate anti-Vietnam War challenger Eugene McCarthy's strong showing in the New Hampshire Democratic primary and, later, became a senior advisor on Bobby Kennedy's presidential campaign until his assassination in 1968. For more than 50 years, Goodwin had saved his diaries, letters, personal memorabilia, and countless documents from those years of public service in over 300 unopened boxes. In 1967, at the age of

24, Doris Kearns was selected as a White House Fellow and worked directly with President Johnson toward the end of his administration, later assisting with his memoir. Dick Goodwin and Doris Kearns would meet for the first time in 1972 at Harvard where they were both working. They married in 1975.



In 2011, when Goodwin finally decided to open his boxes and begin their joint project, they recognized the treasure trove of primary source material before them. After her husband's death, Kearns Goodwin kept her promise to complete the project, realizing that she would need to make it her own. Thus, as she unfolds a poignant journey through a pivotal era in American politics, she offers both a heartfelt tribute to Goodwin's remarkable career and an unparalleled glimpse into the workings of two presidents and their teams as they moved their agenda forward.

As narrative history and challenge, Kearns Goodwin brings her storytelling abilities to reflect upon the shaping of a period in the American story that was both transcendently hopeful and tragic. Struck, however, not so much by the tremendous sorrows of that time but by the exhilarating convictions that individuals could make a difference, Kearns Goodwin hopes that this most personal of her books recaptures for today's reader "the spark of communal idealism and belief that kindled social justice and love for a more inclusive vision of America."

## Migrants of hope

By Maria Antonia Aranda Diaz, IHM, and Maureen Kelley, IHM  
*Missioned in Juarez, Mexico*



To live the Jubilee we are celebrating this year, Pope Francis invited us to keep the hope we have received alive and to renew our strength and certainty—so we can look to the future with an open mind, a trusting heart and a broad horizon. He expressed deep concern for the situation of migrants and refugees, emphasizing the importance of upholding their dignity and resisting discriminatory and racist narratives. In the reality of our times, we recognize that we are all migrants in the universe—human beings in search of a better life. Even astronauts returning from space have explored the possibility of places that might one day offer new hope for humanity.

In his ministry with the people, Jesus always walked and traveled with them. He did so to raise awareness of the social problems they experienced and to be in community. He transmitted hope through the coming of the Kingdom of God—a kingdom where we journey together, never as solitary individuals. "The Holy Spirit impels us to go out of ourselves to go toward God and our brothers and sisters, and never to close in on ourselves. Walking together means being artisans of unity, starting from the common dignity of children of God (cf. Gal 3:26-28); it means walking side by side, without trampling or dominating others, without harboring envy or hypocrisy, without leaving anyone behind or feeling excluded. We are going in the same direction, toward the same goal, listening to one another with love and patience" (Pope Francis's Lent Message 2025).

For the past two years, we have journeyed as an inter-congregational community, "Sowers of Faith," composed of five female religious congregations on the El Paso-Juarez border. In our mission as IHM Sisters, we have shared very close life experiences with our migrant and displaced brothers and sisters. Over the past three months, we have felt the impact of US immigration policy very strongly. We understand the reality of life not as a phenomenon but as a migratory pilgrimage in community. Jesus journeyed to Calvary with people, not alone. Migrants have experienced pain, anguish, uncertainty, violence, traumatic and psychological experiences, fear, failure, sadness and hopelessness.



*Sister Antonia supports the right to education.*

Most of the people on the move we accompany through our migrant ministry arrive with the same characteristics as the Road to Calvary: hungry, without clothes and a place to live, distrustful, unfamiliar with the place they're arriving, very insecure, unaware of their human rights and how to demand them, feeling like strangers, discriminated against, insulted, denigrated, kidnapped and tortured.

*Continued ...*

### *Migrants of hope continued ...*

The immigration, economic and social policies of the American and Mexican governments have a significant impact on the lives of migrants. The constant governmental changes are creating economic insecurity at the border. There is an opportunity to work toward more just and compassionate immigration reforms that promote dignity and support regular, humane migration.

Migrants arrive hoping to find people who can guide and support them to continue their search for a more dignified life. We are grateful to people who understand the suffering and the cry for "salvation," a salvation that is not achieved individually but in community. Therefore, as sisters, it is up to us to walk alongside migrants in hope amid despair. As Romans 15:13 tells us, God is all hope, and he fills us with joy and peace on the path of faith and makes hope grow within us through the Holy Spirit. In verse 14, Paul tells us that each person is full of goodwill, with authentic knowledge, and that we can instruct one another. Our migrant sisters and brothers teach us and show us a transcendental suffering that many do not understand.

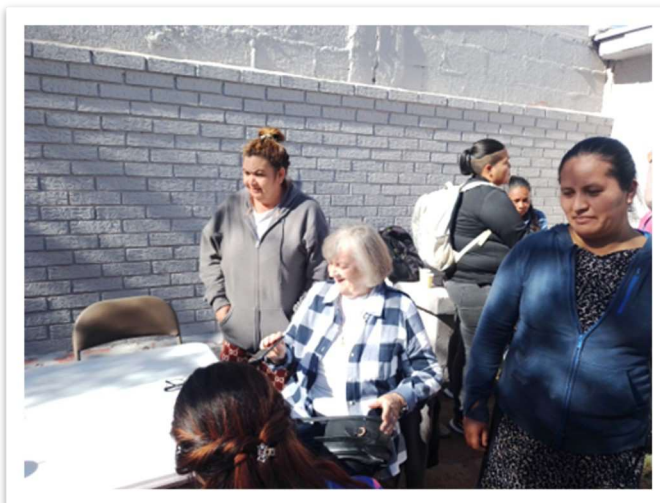
Their life stories are heartbreaking, with a strong sense of "Ulysses Syndrome"; they navigate a different path due to losing belongings, documents, loved ones, joy and the meaning of life. Through their life experiences, we know that Jesus walks with them, manifesting God's presence via people who can help them financially, with jobs, guidance and knowledge. They respond to a cry that says, "We are not criminals or illegals, we are international workers."

As IHM Sisters in the Juarez Mission, we understand their insecurities and fears. We offer comprehensive support to migrant families, providing them with clothing, medicine and food. We take time for them to talk and feel supported. Their physical and mental health is important to continue their immigration process. Some are already being assisted in applying for asylum documents in Mexico; this process is taking more than a year, according to the Mexican government. Others can obtain permanent residency

through family reunification because they have babies born in Mexico, and others through marriage to a Mexican. However, to do so, they must pay a considerable amount, which they cannot afford because they cannot hold decent work.

May this Jubilee, under the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*, help create an atmosphere of hope and trust, a sign of a new rebirth.

Let us live an Easter of hope!



*Sister Maureen pictured center. Sisters accompany and support by providing food, clothing, and mental health services. They also help obtain immigration documents.*



*Sisters Marueen and Antonia meeting with a Rahamim group on prevention of human trafficking.*



## From the Development office



The Royal Blue Classic (RBC) golf outing is right around the corner! Whether you're interested in the 18- or 9-hole golf experience or attending the reception dinner —there's something for everyone to enjoy. Funds raised will benefit IHM ministries. Questions? Call at 734- 240-98630 or email [development@ihmsisters.org](mailto:development@ihmsisters.org).

Monday, June 16, 2025  
Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center  
8768 North Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170



*Celebrating*  
**180 YEARS**

Click [here](#) to view the  
2023-2024 IHM  
Annual Report.



**SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT | 2023-2024**

## Immigration conference inspires Catholic high school students to take action

By Kaylee Razo; Photos by Ixel Garcia and Evelyn Garcia

More than 100 youth from 12 high schools gathered at Detroit Cristo Rey High School in Southwest Detroit for Youth in Action for Immigration's 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference on Friday, March 21. Youth in Action for Immigration is the youth-led council of Strangers No Longer, a statewide organization guided by Catholic faith to fight for immigration justice.

This conference was part of a larger effort to spread awareness and inspire action among Catholic high school students across Michigan. Marian High School teacher Michelle Denton explained that many of her students did not have personal experience with immigration and events like these were key to developing empathy and inspiring students to take action.



Students create butterfly art, with words of support for immigrants, that will be sent to their elected officials and religious leaders. Other Catholic students were fueled by their faith and personal experience with immigration to attend the conference. Sofia Dussan Bronson, a sophomore at Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor and the daughter of Colombian immigrants, explained that her faith and background guided her to "lead with love, mercy, and hospitality, especially to the most vulnerable in [her] community, just like Jesus taught."



Kimberly Redigan, the campus minister at Detroit Cristo Rey High School, contributed a reflection, empathizing that Jesus was a refugee and taught that "Love has no borders, justice has no borders, and humanity has no borders."

The Catholic high school students who helped plan and facilitate this event were driven by the same hope of living out their Catholic faith, spreading awareness, and igniting change. Valentina Sedano from Notre Dame

Prep High School in Pontiac is the co-chair of Youth in Action for Immigration. She helped plan and facilitate the conference alongside students from different Catholic high schools, some as young as 15 years old. spiritual connectedness.

[Click here to continue reading ...](#)

*Kaylee Razo is a high school senior at Detroit Cristo Rey High School and a passionate advocate. She is the co-chair of Strangers No Longer's Youth Council (Youth in Action for Immigration) and a mentor at the Michigan Youth Civil Rights Academy. This article first appeared in [EL CENTRAL Hispanic News](#), which is partially funded by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. It is republished with permission.*

## *From the archives... a look back*

### Heritage for generations twice removed

The call came in the last 20 minutes of the workday. The woman was hoping we had photos of her three great-aunts who had been IHM Sisters. Her mother, in her 90s now, had been talking about them but wasn't confident she remembered their religious names accurately. It would mean so much if we had a photo that could jog her mother's memory.

The last name was Britz. From that it was easy to find out more. Their religious names were Lucina, Aquinata and Hiltrude. We quickly emailed the caller a few photos. "These are absolutely wonderful," she e-mailed back. But that was just the beginning.

The sisters all were teachers. Sister Hiltrude started teaching in 1913 as a postulant. She "commuted" across the river to St. Michael's, carrying the food for the day for the three Sisters there. Aquinata was the youngest and she also taught at IHM schools throughout Michigan, everything from chemistry to Shakespeare and art in Puerto Rico.



Lucina, the oldest of nine, taught for almost 50 years. She spent her last decade in the Motherhouse infirmary with heart failure; it didn't stop her from spending all that time bringing comfort and help to the other Sisters there. Then a discovery: a copy of a 1995 letter written by a niece of the three IHMs. It was signed Aunt Grace, who was an S.S.J. Sister. She described their daily lives and the inspiration they were to her. She called them "a vanished breed of heroine" worthy of talking about to future generations of their family. We sent off the letter.

By return email, our caller revealed that she had been one of the relatives who should have gotten that letter, but she didn't receive it in 1995. What a treasure to receive it now. She is doing exactly what "Aunt Grace" had written to her: Pass this information down to your children.

She wrote back, "I am sharing these precious stories with my children and my nieces and nephews."

*\*This article originally appeared in the spring 2021 issue of the IHM Archives newsletter, Today and Yesterday. All issues of the newsletter can be accessed [here](#).*



## Marian High School celebrates groundbreaking for \$7 million campus transformation

Marian High School marked a historic moment in the life of the school as it broke ground on a bold \$7 million transformation on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, ushering in a new era of innovation and excellence. The first phase of the *Marian for the Generations Capital Campaign* will modernize science and visual arts facilities, reinforcing the school's commitment to preparing students for the future.



Vice President of Advancement Holly Gorecki began the evening reflecting on the event's significance, addressing a crowd of alumnae, faculty, benefactors and members of the Board of Directors.

"This groundbreaking marks more than just the start of construction—it represents the beginning of a bold new chapter in our story, one built on tradition, vision, and the unwavering spirit of this incredible community." Karen Dubay Holt '91, Board of Directors President, shared the story behind the campaign's vision. She highlighted the years of strategic planning, the unwavering support of the Marian community, and the importance of evolving Marian's educational spaces to meet the needs of today's students—especially in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Reflecting on her personal connection to Marian as both an alumna and parent, she shared:

*When my daughter Lauren was a student here, she sat in the same science labs I did more than 30 years ago. It's a powerful tradition—but it also showed me just how overdue these upgrades are. Marian has always prepared students to succeed—but now it's time our learning spaces reflect the excellence we expect from our students.*

Holt emphasized that this campaign is not just about facilities—it's about faith in the future of Marian students and gratitude for the many donors and community members who have made the moment possible.



*On May 7, 2025, the Conclave will begin as Cardinals from around the world gather in the Sistine Chapel to prayerfully discern and elect a new Pope. This sacred moment in the life of the Church calls each of us to lift our hearts in prayer. As the Church looks to the future, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire those entrusted with this great responsibility.*



*In the spirit of reflection and hope, we share the following poem as a prayerful accompaniment to this historic occasion.*

### **Prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in selecting a new Pope**

Lord Jesus, You are the Eternal head of the Church.  
You are the cornerstone; we are living stones built into the edifice.

You are the vine; we are the branches.

You are the head of the body; we are the members.

You are the Good Shepherd; we are the people of your flock.

Lord, in every age, we have complete confidence

In your guidance of the Church,

Through the power of the Holy Spirit

To preserve for us the Gospel you have given us

And to lead us into all truth.

Lord, you choose earthly leaders

To proclaim your Gospel and teach the faith.

We commend into your hands the soul of Pope Francis.

And we ask that your Holy Spirit

Will guide the cardinals of the Church

To select the next Pope.

May the man you have already chosen for this role

Teach the truth with clarity and fidelity,

Heal the wounds of division within the Church,

And encourage all your people to know

That you are our Teacher,

And that all our words, Lord Jesus, must be faithful to yours.

We ask this of you who live and reign forever and ever.

**Amen.**

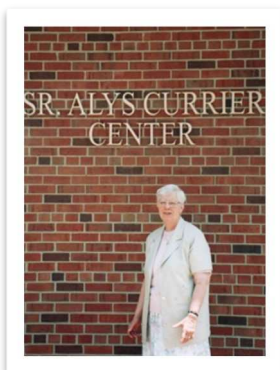


## Then & Now

### Sister Alys Currier

Alys Currier grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan and attended St. Philip's School with eight of her siblings. This is where she met the IHM Sisters. She was drawn to religious life in high school and considered the Carmelite Sisters. She was social but liked solitude and felt "they seemed to suit my personality." With her mother's support, she joined the IHM community; she said the instant she walked into the Mother-house; a deep sense of peace told her she was in the right place.

Alys laughs when she recalls the challenges she encountered during her years in formation. She says, "You ask yourself why you did it and spend your life wondering how you ever got through it!" But she realizes that God works in the depths of you.



### By Sister Irene Gumbleton

I was born on a snowy day, Dec. 27, 1928, in our house in Detroit. I am the fifth of nine children to Helen Steintrager and Vincent Gumbleton. I had seven brothers and one sister, so sports involvement came naturally. We all attended Epiphany Grade School, staffed by the IHM Sisters. Since my dad's three sisters were also IHM Sisters, we were introduced to religious life very early. My childhood was very normal—we prayed, played a lot, fought or argued at times and enjoyed life and family. Often, in the summer, we spent Sunday afternoons watching the Tigers play baseball at Briggs Stadium.

Influential in my call to religious life was the undercurrent of growing up with three aunts who preceded me in religious life and a brother who also explored it.



[Continued...](#)

[Continued...](#)



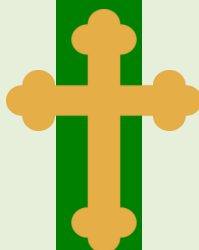
[Joan \(Brazzel\) Wyskiel,](#)  
[IHM Associate](#)  
[Feb. 18, 1945 – March 2,](#)



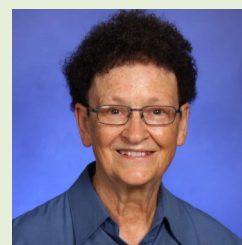
[Eileen \(Mary Gael\)](#)  
[Houlihan, IHM](#)  
[Oct. 26, 1922 – March 10, 2025](#)



[Madeleine Sophie Weber, IHM](#)  
[Oct. 8, 1930 – March 25, 2025](#)



[Marcia \(Marie Jeffrey\)](#)  
[Andrews, IHM](#)  
[June 7, 1943 – April 9, 2025](#)



[Carola Keffler, IHM](#)  
[Jan. 28, 1927 – April 8, 2025](#)



[Marita-Constance Supan, IHM](#)  
[July 31, 1945 – April 21, 2025](#)



## Marygrove Minute

### Calling all Marygrove Alums! Save the Date: Sept.13, 2025

The 2025 All-Class Reunion of Marygrove College will take place on the campus of the Marygrove Conservancy on Saturday, Sept. 13. All alumni are welcome, from any year, especially those with a 5-year graduation anniversary, those ending in 5 and 0. This is an excellent opportunity to meet friends and celebrate our legacy of education at Marygrove. There will be a luncheon in Madame Cadillac with guest speakers from the Marygrove Conservancy and others to be announced. Schedule of the day and speakers will be included in the invitation, which will be emailed to you and posted on the Alumni webpage. You don't want to miss this!



Besides recognizing our special relationship to the Marygrove Conservancy and The School at Marygrove (TSM), we will be celebrating the third graduating class from the high school! This year's graduation will be held June 3, 2025, at the Silver Gardens Events Center in Southfield. Your Alumni Association is proud to donate a monetary Legacy Award to two TSM Seniors who demonstrate the Marygrove values of competence, compassion and commitment.

Your Reunion Committee is looking for volunteers and welcomes any input on this event. We especially need to hear from you if you can contact your class members. We can provide a database.

Invitations and registration info will be via email, so update your email with us at [alumni@marygroveconservancy.org](mailto:alumni@marygroveconservancy.org). As always, check out our Facebook page at Marygrove Alumni & Friends. Please feel free to contact the committee chair, Liz Poliuto Loria '70, at [lorializ@gmail.com](mailto:lorializ@gmail.com) or 248-318-0012.

*Marygrove, then and now, we salute you.  
Sending wishes for a beautiful spring wherever you are!*



**Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.**

Check us out on our website or on Facebook or Instagram!

♦ 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.

**DONATE**



Safe secure  
[online giving](#)  
is available for  
your convenience.



Submit your  
[prayer requests](#)  
to the IHM Sisters.