



IHM Sisters joyfully celebrate 180 years of faith, service and commitment

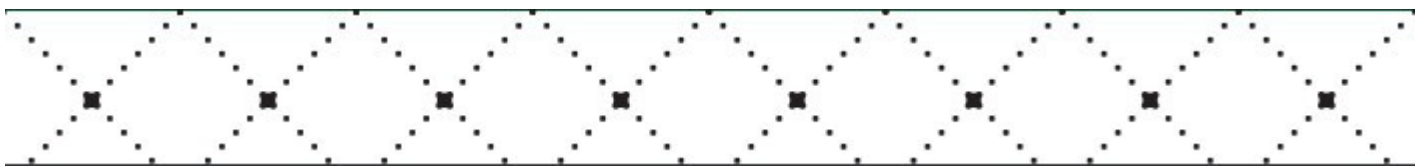
Since our founding of our congregation in 1845, we have dedicated our lives to mission, responding to the needs of the time with courage and creativity.

Each November, we celebrate Founders' Day—a time for the community to give special thanks for the women who began this journey and for the countless lives touched by their legacy.

All are warmly invited to celebrate with us at liturgy on **Sunday, November 9, at 10 a.m.** in the IHM Motherhouse Chapel and at the opening reception of the [Founder's Day exhibit](#) on November 6 at 5:30 p.m. The exhibit, in the IHM Art Gallery, will feature historical artifacts, photos, art and more from IHM missions along the River Raisin to sub-Saharan Africa!

Along with our associates and partners in mission, we give thanks for 180 years of grace and renew our commitment to carry this vision into the future with faith and joy.

Enjoy this [timeline](#) highlighting 180 years of IHM history.



Living the IHM Spirit across the sea

By Elizabeth Lyons-Hudson, IHM Associate

I am an IHM Associate living permanently in the United Kingdom. I moved here with my British husband in 1987. It was an absolute dream come true when I reconnected with the IHMs and discovered that I could become an associate, a joy that far exceeded my expectations.

My husband and I are both local preachers in the Methodist Church. The Methodist tradition in the U.K. differs somewhat from our sister churches in the U.S. — here, most services are led by trained lay preachers. My theology studies at Marygrove provided an excellent foundation for this ministry.

As a preacher, I plan each Sunday service, selecting hymns, prayers, meditations and scripture readings that support the theme of the sermon. We may follow the lectionary or choose any scripture that speaks to the message we wish to share.

I also had the honor of serving as a lay pastor for a local congregation for six years. This ministry involved working closely with the Minister, visiting parishioners, bringing communion to those unable to attend church, chairing the church council, serving as a member of Synod, and conducting funerals and baptisms.

I feel deeply called to preach about love, acceptance, kindness and mercy. The Spirit also moves me to encourage others to seek the gifts of the Spirit and to have the courage to speak about God's love in all circumstances.

In both the U.S. and here in the U.K., we are witnessing growing climates of fear and division. This strengthens my conviction that we are all called to stand against injustice, welcome those seeking safety and dignity, and resist the tendency to demonize those we do not understand. Scripture is filled with these themes if only we listen closely.

I feel privileged to live this calling. It complements the IHM charism beautifully— our shared commitment to justice, compassion, and mercy. My desire to help build a just and equal world, grounded in Gospel values, comes from what I learned from my family and the IHM Sisters.

Even from across the sea, I am grateful to share in the life of the IHM community through Zoom gatherings and livestreamed events. I extend a warm welcome to any IHM Sister or Associate visiting the U.K.—please come and see us!



For information on the IHM Associate program, visit our [website](#) or contact Barbara Bacci-Yugovich, IHM Associate at (734) 240-9672 or byugovich@ihmsisters.org.

News from the Development office

In the spirit of Theresa Maxis: honoring Paddy Lynch

The 2025 Theresa Maxis Award celebration took place on October 16th at the beautifully restored Theresa Maxis Alumnae Hall at Marygrove Conservancy.

Over 200 guests came together to celebrate this year's honoree, Paddy Lynch, whose deep faith, pioneering spirit and dedication to building community embody the values of Theresa Maxis. Read Paddy's full speech [here](#).



Through the generosity of Paddy's family and friends—and the wider circle of IHM supporters—\$91,901 was raised to benefit IHM ministries and support with the ongoing retirement needs of the congregation.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who helped make this year's celebration both meaningful and memorable.

Caring for IHM sisters who never truly retire

In the 2025 IHM Retirement Appeal, you will find inspiring stories of Sister Alys (Gerontia) Currier—who, at 100 years old, remains active in many ways—and Sisters Margaret Mary (Cornelia) O'Shea and Margaret (Mary Hofbauer) Alandt, both in their 80s, who began a new ministry last year.

Their lives remind us that an IHM Sister's ministry doesn't stop with retirement—it simply takes on new forms of faithful service.

You can view the appeal [here](#).



The cost of retirement and health care continues to rise each year. A gift to the Retirement Appeal helps close the gap between our resources and the cost of providing compassionate, quality care for our retired sisters—honoring their lifetime of service and dedication. **Make your gift** [here](#).

Light up the season with love and remembrance

The Christmas season is a time to honor the people who make a difference in our lives. Your gift can commemorate the birth of a child or grandchild, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, recognize a loved one, or remember a cherished friend or family member who has passed. Contributions can be made throughout the holiday season.

\$25	Illuminates a light on the tree
\$50	Sponsors a poinsettia
\$100	Sponsors an angel
\$500	Sponsors the Christmas Tribute Tree



Your generosity directly supports our ongoing efforts to replace outdated computers, laptops and tablets. With new technology, our sisters can expand their learning, touch more lives through their work and stay connected with family, friends and the world around them.

To make a [tribute gift](#), please call the Development office at (734) 240-9860 or click [here](#) to make a gift online.

We warmly invite you to join us for the Christmas Tribute Tree lighting and blessing ceremony on Monday, December 22 at 3 p.m. in the Motherhouse foyer.

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DIRECT UP TO
\$108,000

70½
OR OLDER



A community in conversation

By Joan Mumaw, IHM

The IHM Assembly, held Oct. 8–11, 2025, was a moment of grace and possibility. More than 160 Sisters, Associates and guests gathered for this historic meeting—a time filled with curiosity, hope, and a shared desire to listen deeply to one another and to the Spirit moving among us.

What made this gathering so significant? For generations, IHMs have met to share ideas and raise questions, yet often their voices were represented in decision-making through elected delegates. Many longed for the day when the entire community could come together as one body—to reflect, discern, and make choices for our collective future. This Assembly was that long-hoped-for moment: a sacred space where all could speak and be heard.

In her opening remarks, Sister Maxine Kollasch, IHM President, echoed the spirit of the 2024 Chapter—the gathering that elected leadership and charted direction for the years 2024–2029. “We are invited, each sister and associate, to participate as fully as possible,” she said, “to enter into a space of leadership where our voice and presence are cherished. The path of our flourishing depends on it. We need each other—as a community, as a world... This is the call of Chapter.” Her words set the tone for days of deep listening, honest dialogue and renewed commitment.

A highlight of the second day was the proclamation of the [2024 Chapter Direction](#)—read in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#)—and time to reflect on how this call has begun to take root in our lives. On the third day, the community received the revised IHM Constitutions, approved at the 2024 Chapter and recently confirmed by Rome. As the sacred text was blessed and received, a profound silence filled the room—a silence steeped in reverence, gratitude and shared purpose. The revised Constitutions call for an Assembly of the whole, affirming this moment as both a fulfillment and a beginning.

The facilitator then guided participants through an “Open Space Process,” inviting everyone to name the questions and concerns stirring in their hearts. Small groups formed around topics such as the future of vowed membership, use of resources, Associate relationships, the immigration crisis, the prophetic call of religious life, technology and ministry, contemplative spirituality and more. The energy was palpable as groups shared insights, longings and new possibilities. As the facilitator reminded all, “Relationships move at the speed of trust.” The depth of conversation depends upon the depth of our inner lives. With trust as the foundation, imagination and action can follow. The fruits of these dialogues will help the participants, with the Leadership Council and Planning Committee, discern the next steps together.



The final day turned hearts toward remembrance and gratitude. Reflecting on the call to be “good ancestors,” the Assembly honored those who have died since the Chapter, acknowledging the wisdom and faith that continue to guide us.

The prevailing sentiment of those at the Assembly was one of gratitude and trust in providence. A quote from Arundhati Roy seemed to capture the spirit of these days together, “Another world is not only possible. She is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

Marygrove Transformed

By Barbara Stanbridge, IHM

Imagine having a Rip Van Winkle experience! Some of us did in late August when a group of IHMs, primarily from the Motherhouse, took a special tour of the newly renovated buildings at Marygrove. The visit was initiated by Jane Herb, IHM, chair of the Marygrove Conservancy, and beautifully narrated by Robbie Walker, Executive Director of the Conservancy.

Our reactions to the campus transformation depended somewhat on our personal memories, whether as former teachers or students of Marygrove College or Immaculata High School. Many of us remembered those final years of decline, so witnessing the renewed beauty and vitality of the campus was pure joy.

The Liberal Arts Building has been refitted and updated in ways that preserve its original grandeur while creating a majestic, welcoming space for today's high school students. The former east-side parking lot has become a state-of-the-art pre-K learning center with every detail designed for little ones: hands-on materials, natural outdoor views, nap areas, and even observation rooms for parents.

Just when we thought we couldn't be more impressed, we entered Immaculata, now serving as the middle school. In one classroom, students were deeply engaged in robotics projects that they barely noticed our group. As we left, we were all struck by a sense of inspiration and hope. Our final stop was the gym—yes, the library has been transformed into a beautiful gymnasium! Who could have imagined it, especially our quintessential IHM librarians, Sisters Claudia Carlin and Anna Mary Waickman.

As I reflected on the experience, two thoughts stayed with me. First, this transformation is a testament to what imagination and resources can accomplish. And second, borrowing from Bernard Lee, SM, in *The Beating of Great Wings*: "The spirit doesn't care who does the work, only that the work gets done."

The great work that began at Marygrove more than a century ago continues, not just for girls, but for all. And we, too, are learning the grace of partnership—joining with others who share our values to create something new and life-giving.



Worthy of note from the Alphonsus Liguori Library ...

The Women of Chateau Lafayette

by Stephanie Dray and reviewed by library staff

Stephanie Dray's *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* is a saga spanning three centuries and four wars, all connected by a stone castle in the remote reaches of the mountains of Auvergne, France, the Château de Chavaniac, the birthplace and later the family house of the Marquis de Lafayette, a man who helped the American colonies win their independence from British rule and played an integral role in the French Revolution.

Dray's historical novel follows three women over three eras, shining a light on the untold story of women who both ensured that the château stood firm through the French Revolution and two world wars and protected its legacy of liberty.

1774. Adrienne Lafayette, a wealthy noblewoman and wife of the famed Marquis, shares in Lafayette's liberal causes, becoming a political adviser and strategist to her husband in the fight for American independence. She later puts her life and family at risk in pursuit of liberty for all of France as the struggle for a constitutional monarchy falls into the control of those who throw the Revolution into a Reign of Terror.

1914. Beatrice Astor Chanler, a New York socialite and former actor, is undaunted in any undertaking. With the outbreak of WWI, she travels to France and sees war's devastation firsthand. Her mission becomes one of helping French soldiers and children while also convincing America to join in fighting for France. In her efforts, she uses her family fortune to restore the crumbling château, transforming it into a sanctuary for sick and orphaned children.

1940. Marthe Simone is one of those orphans. Now, as a French schoolteacher at the château, and an aspiring artist, she is a woman who wants nothing to do with war. But as the

realities of Nazi occupation transform her life, she uses her gift as an artist to falsify paperwork and protect Jewish children at the château.

Adrienne and Beatrice are based on real women. Marthe is a composite character inspired by the female resistance fighters, an artist-in-residence, and other figures from the château's history. Dray breathes life into each of her protagonists and creates a narrative storyline of each time period that is both meticulously researched and expansive in its scope.

The alternating time periods of Dray's storytelling may be initially challenging, but her skill in bringing history to life soon becomes compelling, highlighting the sacrifices—personal and political—required to fight for freedom and uphold democratic ideals against tyranny, whether it's a monarchy, an emperor, or the Nazi regime.



Detroit Cristo Rey High School holds mass for peace on International Day of Nonviolence and announces new Pax Christi chapter

Detroit Cristo Rey High School held an all-school Mass for Peace on October 2, International Day of Nonviolence. Our celebrant was PCM State Council member, Fr. Dave Buersmeyer, who walked students, faculty, and staff through Pax Christi's Vow of Nonviolence in his homily.

The worship space was festooned with peace flags bearing messages/prayers/hopes for peace made by our students and faculty, as well as a large "Blessed are the Peacemakers" banner signed by our students. Rather than conclude this year's mass with a neighborhood procession as we did last year, we distributed prayer cards after communion and read the Pax Christi Vow of Nonviolence together. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to embrace the pledge in the coming year and to register for an MPT nonviolence training at the school scheduled in December. We also announced that DCR is initiating a new Pax Christi group that will meet on the first Sunday of each month in our school chapel.

We strive to make nonviolence normative in our school and the wider community and to deepen our response to Jesus' call to be peacemakers. We strive to integrate peacemaking into our school's fabric, which is why we gather on the International Day of Nonviolence. We are praying that we take the Vow of Nonviolence seriously and that the nonviolence training and introduction of our new Pax Christi group will bear good fruit.

Blessed are the peacemakers . . . and blessed are we to be part of this community.



From the IHM Liturgy office

During the month of November, we celebrate the mystery of the Communion of Saints. We remember all who have gone before us—the Saints officially recognized by the Church as well as the saints who walked among us as family, friends and colleagues. You are invited to take a moment to prayerfully remember your loved ones by inscribing their names in our *Book of the Names of the Dead*, located near the baptismal font.

Together we pray: All you holy men and women pray for us!



Join IHM Sisters for a 3-day retreat focused on the Season of Advent.

Because we are made in God's image, we are called to be hope—to others and to our world. During this time together, we'll explore possibilities for our response to and with hope in everyday living. To register or learn more about the retreat, click [here](#).



From the Archives

Precious cargo survived airline handlers

An appeal from Haiti for help. A custom-designed solar computer system was carefully packed and hand-carried through airports. Sisters Anne Wisda and Barbara Berg were taking pieces of delicate equipment that would bring power to the Sisters of St. Therese at Rivière Froide.

Imagine their consternation, then, as they watched an airline worker toss their precious cargo down a luggage chute in Miami. It was 1998 when the IHM agreed to help the convent in the mountains of Haiti. Since there was no power, they couldn't run a computer, which they really wanted.



First, Anne and Barb secured a grant from the Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters who Work with the Poor. This allowed them to buy a computer, printer and a French language module. Next, they worked with a DTE technician who calculated the power needed to run the equipment and custom-ordered two small solar panels and adapters. DTE donated the solar panels and taught the Sisters how to connect everything. They used colored tape to match each wire with its corresponding connection.

Since the airline allowed passengers two carry-on bags, each passenger had a personal bag, and one carried the equipment while the other carried the panels. Boarding at Metro Airport went fine, but the workers in Miami allowed only one carry-on. That's when the bags went flying into the cargo hold. After a tense flight, they were relieved to see that everything arrived intact. The Sisters of St. Therese had hoped to have reliable electrical power for their 50th Jubilee. It happened.

The office was on the second floor and the solar panel wires fed through a window. The Sisters worked hard to learn how to operate the system, with Barb translating Anne's English instructions into French and Creole. Never underestimate the excitement of seeing paper shooting out of a printer for the first time.

Remembering



**Janet (Ann Rita)
Ryan, IHM**

March 21, 1943 —
Sept. 2, 2025



**Iris Schroeder,
IHM Associate**

Dec. 10, 1931 —
Oct. 3, 2025



**Mary Leusch,
IHM Associate**

Nov. 9, 1933 —
Oct. 8, 2025



**Kathleen (Rose De Lima)
Shekaitis, IHM**

April 6, 1937 —
Oct. 22, 2025

[*Read more about the lives and ministries of our Sisters and Associates*](#)

Then and Now

Sister Evelyn Craig

I was raised in Akron, Ohio and grew up with six siblings. I attended St. Mary's Grade and High School, where IHM Sisters educated me. Remarkably, 10 of my graduating class members entered the IHM community! My first mission was teaching eighth grade at St. Patrick in Carleton, Michigan. After two years, I moved to Kirkwood, Missouri, where I taught eighth grade at St. Gerard Majella for two years before becoming principal—a role I held for the next six years while completing my master's degree in education.

While on a retreat at the Marianist Apostolic Center in Glencoe, Missouri, the Marianist Priests and Brothers invited me to join them in their high school retreat ministry and to train in spiritual direction at St. Louis University with a practicum at the Institute for Religious Formation.

My experiences in campus ministry at John Carroll University in Cleveland and Bowling Green State University further shaped my commitment to spiritual direction and directed retreats, which have remained a constant in my life.

To read more about Sister Evelyn Craig, click [here](#).



Sister Paula Cathcart

I grew up in Detroit and attended St. Agnes School for 12 years, as did my four siblings. For most of those years, we lived next to the convent. I learned the value of faith, love, kindness and hospitality from my parents. I was influenced by the kindness, action for justice and sense of humor of the IHM Sisters who taught me. My parents' involvement in the parish and responsiveness to others' needs encouraged me to consider religious life.



Early in my senior year, I realized I wanted to be a teacher and make a positive impact on the world by teaching social studies. I delayed entering the IHM community until the best time for my family. With my dream in mind, I attended Marygrove College and Wayne State University. When my calling could no longer be denied, I entered the IHM congregation. This is where I felt God wanted me to be.

I ministered as a teacher, principal and counselor, beginning in 1967, at St. Mary of Redford and Queen of Hope in Detroit. I finished in 1987 at St. Mary Academy, Monroe. The Queen of Hope ministry experience was a wonderful opportunity for the school and parish community to unite, discover and become a community of faith and justice rooted in Vatican II principles.

To read more about Sister Paula Cathcart, click [here](#).

Marygrove Minute

On a beautiful September Saturday, 50 Marygrove alums and friends gathered on campus for a day filled with fellowship. With the dedicated support of volunteers, board members, the Marygrove Conservancy and Picasso Catering Group, the 2025 Marygrove College Reunion was a resounding success.



Michelle, Liz Poliuto Loria, '70 and Lou Koss Moss, '73

The day began with a continental breakfast, followed by a compelling presentation from Dr. Frank Rashid, beloved former professor and longtime head of the English department. Dr. Rashid offered an engaging overview of the CAALS Program—an annual series that continues to bring distinguished African American authors to campus, keeping alive a cherished tradition that began long before the college's closure. His presentation, enriched with photos and memories, evoked heartfelt recognition from those gathered.

Next, Tom Lewand, CEO of the Marygrove Conservancy, shared an inspiring update on the educational renaissance unfolding through the P-20 initiative, which continues and deepens Marygrove's enduring legacy. He announced that the [Kresge Foundation will relocate its headquarters to the Marygrove campus and invest \\$180 million in the Conservancy](#) and the surrounding neighborhood—an extraordinary commitment to the future of this historic site.

Following the presentations, guests embarked on campus tours. Some explored the former Immaculata High School—now home to The School at Marygrove Elementary—while others toured The School at Marygrove High School,

located in the Liberal Arts Building. Many were moved by the warm, inclusive learning environment that now fills spaces once familiar to generations of Marygrove students. The transformation, rooted in academic excellence and community spirit, offers a powerful testament to the college's living legacy.

At luncheon, President Emerita Elizabeth Burns '72 offered a celebratory toast to the Class of 1975 on their 50th reunion and to all alums marking milestone years, including 13 from the Class of 1970, celebrating their 55th reunion.

Guests then enjoyed a dynamic presentation by Dr. Barry Fishman, Director of the University of Michigan Marsal School of Education, who shared insights into the innovative [LEAPS \(Learning, Equity and Problem Solving\) program](#), now in its second year on campus.

The day's final highlight was a heartfelt and inspiring presentation by Michelle May '85, an accomplished musician and former Alumni Board vice president. With humor and honesty, Michelle shared "Four Things I Learned at Marygrove," weaving personal stories and photos into a moving reflection on how the college continues to shape her life. She concluded by performing her original composition, "She," with her all-woman ensemble [Musique Noire](#).

The spirit of Marygrove continues to thrive through its students: The School at Marygrove (TSM) is now ranked among the top 10 schools in the Detroit Public School Community District, and the TSM High School is proudly #2 in the district, just behind Cass Tech. The school's Robotics Team also recently won the citywide championship, a testament to the excellence and creativity that still define this campus.

We invite all who cherish Marygrove to contribute to the Sacred Heart Chapel Restoration Fund through the Alumni Page of the Conservancy website. Every gift helps preserve this sacred heart of campus.

We welcome your questions and comments. Visit www.marygroveconservancy.org and click on *Stay Involved: Alumni* or find us on Facebook at Marygrove Alumni & Friends.

IHM High School Class of 1975 celebrates 50th reunion

During the month of May, the Immaculate Heart of Mary High School Class of 1975 celebrated its 50th reunion at Pinstripes restaurant in Oak Brook, Illinois. The joyful gathering was made even more special by the surprise appearance of Sister Maureen Field, IHM, who served as Dean of Students during their high school years. Sister Maureen shared that she was “truly overjoyed to see the wonderful women I loved and guided as their Dean of Students.”



Sister Maureen Field, pictured in the front row, farthest seat to the right.

Immaculate Heart of Mary High School, an all-girls Catholic school located in Westchester, Illinois, opened in 1959 and closed in 2005. Sister Maureen served as Dean of Students from 1972 to 1976 and Dean of Recruitment from 1976 to 1977.

Over its 45 years of operation, more than 150 IHM Sisters served as teachers, administrators, and staff, shaping generations of students through their dedication to faith and education. The longest-serving Sister was Sister Patrick Mary Woods, IHM, who taught mathematics from 1960 to 1998.

The cherished memories and deep gratitude shared by the IHM High School community continue to honor the legacy of the IHM Sisters and their enduring commitment to excellence in Catholic education.



Deep faith. Courageous spirit. Action for justice.

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