

TODAY AND YESTERDAY

A COLLECTION OF RECENT DISCOVERIES AND
ACTIVITIES IN THE IHM ARCHIVES

History devotees visit Monroe campus

On April 29 we welcomed 17 members of the Detroit Historical Society (below, right) to the IHM Motherhouse. Archivist Jennifer Meacham led the group on a tour of the Motherhouse Chapel, after which everyone carpooled over to St. Mary Cemetery to visit the Gillet Memorial Chapel, now displaying a new and updated story board on the life of Father Gillet (below).

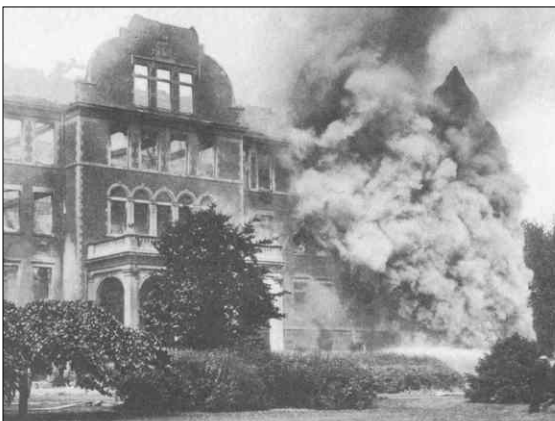
The attendees were gracious and attentive (including a one-eyed service dog who never so much as yipped!), but the event was a bit of a fluke. The organizer who initially contacted the Archives was excited for members to learn about the campus, the chapel, the history of the college ... Yes, they thought they were

calling Marygrove. Ah, well.

In the end, they came anyway, they asked great questions, and they were thrilled with what they saw and what they learned. Sometimes, things work out just as they should.



Sister Ann Margaret Hughes shared flashbacks from the 1929 fire



In a 1982 community meeting, Sisters shared memories of earlier days. It was captured on cassette tape. Sister Ann Margaret talked about June 3, 1929, the day the second Academy burned. She had just been received in January; her sister was in 11th grade.

- What girls grabbed running out were the least important things
- Sister Juliana Bruin's dissertation and notes went up in flames
- Hearing radio news, parents around Michigan and in other states were frantic for information
- When her sister got home she said, "I lost all my jewelry." Their Dad said, "I didn't know you had any jewelry."

The notebooks of Gerry Demech

On the inside cover of an 11x8½-inch spiral-bound notebook, Sister Geraldine Demech begins in her own handwriting, “This is a significant Sketch Pad.” She records the date: June 20, 2007.

“For years I yearned to draw and after both of my parents died I at long last had the time to pursue my dream. I began in the summer of 1991.”

She goes on to say that she threw away most of her early drawings, but after 2001 she began filling large and small sketch pads, six in all, with a different style. “As the arthritis grew worse in my hands I could no longer tightly grasp pencils, pens or crayons. I began using a lot of media and let loose creatively. I always pray to the Creative Spirit before I start & usually write a haiku about my picture.



Expressing myself artistically frees me.”

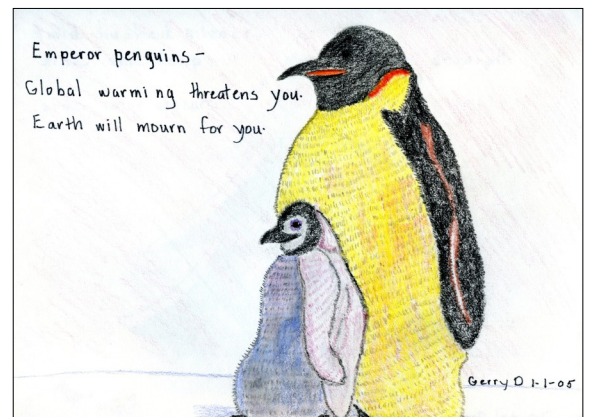
The notebooks cover the years 2003 up to her death in August, 2016, at the age of 82.



“I don’t have to prove anything,” she wrote. “I had an idea & put it on paper.”

Remembering Gerry

- An only child, of Maltese background
- Religious name Rose Philip after her parents
- Primary grades teacher for 40 years
- Longest mission: St. Matthew, Detroit, 1972-1993
- Active Motherhouse volunteer for 20 years
- Known for her love of nature and her dry wit



Revisiting Sisters' poetry

RELUCTANT ARCHIVIST

Incomparable witness
from an aged past
of days seen moving
into years and centuries,

Vines on your banks
cut back for footpaths, roadways-
bridge after bridge
added
while you kept racing along.

Indians first, then Frenchmen,
German and Irish settlers-
next Americans welcoming others
from everywhere, anywhere.

Of log cabins
or atomic plants
what stories you could tell-
successes
wrung from hardship, suffering-
failures, too,

But, careless custodian,
you scamper on
letting all you know
slip away,
losing it forever
as you find those wider waters
of Lake Erie
where you are
River Raisin of Monroe
no more.

— Mary Ivan Bach, IHM



Story brings photo to life

Many thanks to all of the Sisters who have answered the call for photos. After an article in the Spring issue of *Today and Yesterday*, we have received hundreds of photos and many documents, chronicles and general files, too. We also asked that photos include background information: Who, what, when and where. Many complied and our files are richer for it.

First prize for effort goes to Sister Angela Therese Meram. She contributed the photo above. It could stand on its own merits, an iconic mid-20th century picture of a First Communion class. Still, the story behind the photo makes it priceless as Sister Angela Therese wrote out the details on two Post-It notes and stuck them to the back. (She's the first girl at left.) She wrote:

1 st Communion	all immigrants
with cousins at	We were in
Blessed Sacrament	Sr. Janet Sullivan's
Cathedral —	class and spoke
1947	no English

Questions? Call Archivist Jennifer Meacham in-house at 695 or Sister Gail Addis at 423 (home) or 308 (office).

Among Ourselves



Sister Margaret Alandt (far right) says this photo brings back many memories. She was living on the farm on N. Custer Rd. with Harriet Singelyn (second from left). Also shown are Sisters Dorothy Diederichs, Carol Quigley, Hilda Skelley and Carolina Diez de Andino. Sister Margaret dates the photo to between 1971 and 1973.

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.

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