

TODAY AND YESTERDAY

A COLLECTION OF RECENT DISCOVERIES AND
ACTIVITIES IN THE IHM ARCHIVES

Archivists, historians gather at Notre Dame

This past June, IHM Archivist Jennifer Meacham (pictured, second from right) attended the triennial Conference on the History of Women Religious at the University of Notre Dame. She participated in a panel discussion on collaborations between archivists and researchers. Her fellow panelists were (left to right) Casey Bowser, Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill; Reba Drey Luiken, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Peggy Delmas, University of South Alabama. Conference attendees traveled from 14 countries on five continents to share and discuss papers and presentations on the conference theme, “Lives and Archives.”

Professor Delmas has published and presented on the topic of women religious working for secular colleges and universities; she has profiled a number of IHM Sisters including Veronica Mary Maher, Suzanne Fleming, Ellen Clanon, and Grace Mary Olf. She is currently writing a book on the subject and her latest



article, “Catholic Sisters as Community College Faculty and Administrators: 1969-1999,” was published in the recent issue of *Community College Review*. (A copy of the article is available upon request from the Archives.)

The conference was both informative and fun. Jennifer is looking forward to the next one in 2028!

The far-reaching impact of excellent teachers: two examples

Still, after an interval of so many years, many former IHM students ask the Archives for information about their favorite teachers. Two recent examples illustrate:



Michael C. Saad, Sr. emailed to say he dedicated his novel to Sister Marie Edward Patton. From *A Dollar Short*: “My high school English and Literature teacher, Sister Marie Edwards, IHM, was a perfectionist for spelling,

punctuation, grammar and creative thinking. Although I didn’t appreciate it at the time, I have silently thanked her over the years and I publicly do so now.”

And Patrick Smith wished to tell Sister Marie Pacis Oprysek that “the seventh grader she knew [at Sacred Heart] had turned out okay. She is the first person I think of when reflection takes me back to those grade school years.”



180 years of ... is Facebook series

A Friday Facebook series crafted by Archives staff has been focusing on the IHM's 180th anniversary. The 15-week series reflects on key words that represent recurring activities, places and values from the congregation's founding to today. Words and pictures have reminded Facebook followers of the ubiquitousness of Classrooms, Children and Construction, to name a few of the key themes featured. The series continues through Nov. 7, just before Founders Day. Since it is impossible to be comprehensive about 180 years of existence in just 15 weeks, fitting themes and photos inevitably got cut. Following are two "extras" that will not appear on Facebook.

Today we remember 180 years of ... **Scholarship.** First photo: Sister Marie Fidelis Remski demonstrating her study of rare cacti two years after earning her Ph.D in botany, 1955. Second photo: Sister Claudia Carlen stands with the New Catholic Encyclopedia that she indexed while creating a breakthrough way to computerize the task, 1967.



Today we remember 180 years of ...

Stewardship. First photo: Sister Jane Herb cuts the ribbon to open the solar panel array on the IHM campus, 2013. Second photo: Sisters reference environmental activist Greta Thunberg and her protests against coal mining and its impact, 2019.



Mark your calendars! This year's Founders Day exhibit is coming soon!

“Courageous Faith: 180 Years of IHM Mission and Ministry”

Opening reception
Thursday, Nov. 6, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
IHM Motherhouse Gallery



Revisiting Sisters' poetry

Outside the Leaves rustle
 In the cool Autumn wind,
Continually they crescendo
 Into applause
 And fade into silence.

Soon all will fall
 And stillness begins.

The mighty Tree rests
 Deep within itself

Patiently waiting the
 Spring of new Birth,
 New Growth,
 New Life,

Until becoming fully alive again
 In its summer dance
 Of magnificent glory

To the one who continually
 Breathes Life within
 With unconditional Love.

— Arlene Jekielek, IHM, 1993

ANOTHER FRIDAY

CenTex trash truck
groans away my excess

As I offer
a jug of cold water
to the sweating driver.

Through the orange mesh
protective vest
on his drenched shirt

I see his name:
Jesus.

— Kathleen O'Brien, IHM, 1992

Mystery solved: The crystal rosary



Sister Diann Cousino, Archives Assistant, ran across this explanation recently in the Chronicles for Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent, Glen Lake (Minnetonka), Minnesota.

On June 15, 1958, Mother Marie Victoire (Esther McNally) and Sisters Valencia (Josephine Karas) and Ann Charles (Marian Rollison) received a gift from Father Francis Fleming.

From Chronicles June 16: “The rosary, Father’s gift to Mother Marie Victoire was placed in the hands of the statue of Our Blessed Mother in the Motherhouse Chapel and will henceforth be a true symbol of the devotion of our Reverend Pastor to the Mother of God as well as a manifestation of his gratitude to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Do you recognize this beautiful statue and rosary? Over the years, some sisters have wondered about its purpose and origin. Now we know.

Among Ourselves



Enjoying some down time together are Sisters Julie Vieira, Marie Gabriel Hungerman, Jo Sferrella, Janet Provost, Maxine Kollasch, and Joyce Durosko. No notes on who won.

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