

# TODAY AND YESTERDAY

A COLLECTION OF RECENT DISCOVERIES AND  
ACTIVITIES IN THE IHM ARCHIVES

## Hall of Leaders gets an overdue update

For a decade, the corridor outside the IHM Archives has been adorned with portraits honoring IHM Sisters who served as Superior, President, or as a part of a Leadership Council. When the congregation marked its 170th anniversary in November 2015, then-Archivist Donna Westley and her team printed, matted, framed, and labelled the photographs for a temporary exhibit in the Motherhouse Gallery. Then, as sisters celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the silver-framed portraits were relocated to their new, permanent home. More than just a visual timeline of leaders' faces, the display was also complemented with a companion booklet that

includes a photo and brief description of each superior's time in office.

With the election of a new IHM President and Leadership Council in 2024, it was time to update the portrait gallery with a photo of President Max Kollasch and her team of Mission Councilors: Ann Oestreich, Kathy Onderbeke, and Lisandra Pedraza Burgos. As sometimes

happens, the months got away from us and suddenly it was fall of 2025, but no updated photos!

Our dedicated Archives team made this project a high priority for early 2026, and the final results — we believe — were worth the wait.

In addition to the two new portraits (above) and an updated information booklet, the exhibit now includes full-color prints of photos taken from the 1970s to today, some new frames, and conservation quality acrylic sheets (instead of glass) to filter UV rays and protect the images from sun fading and discoloring.

The display is a tribute to 180 years of visionary leadership fueled by the unwavering faith and invincible spirit of the IHM Sisters. We recognize those who led the congregation in times of triumph and tragedy and guided generations of devoted Sisters through myriad changes in education, religion, and society. The IHM Archives is proud to maintain a visual acknowledgement of these women, the architects of IHMs ongoing legacy.



**Sister Diann Cousino and Archives volunteer Marge McBee replaced all of the portraits on the north side of the corridor.**

## Did you know? SMA, IHM always part of Sister's life

Marilyn (Ann Louis) Schneider was an IHM Sister for 61 years. She taught grades two through 12, including music, religion, math and English, exclusively in Michigan schools.

Although she taught and worked in many places, the IHM and St. Mary Academy permeated her life. Even before she was born, family members were associated with both. She attended, taught and worked at the Academy.



**Sister Marilyn did this self-portrait while a student at the Academy.**

Following are a number of fun facts and details about her 81 years:

- She and her older brother Louis shared the same birthdate. Feb. 21
- Her mother was an SMA grad and she and sisters Eve Ann and Mary Sue also were SMA grads
- Three aunts

were in the IHM community – Cyrilla and Edmunda Affeld and Winifred Schneider



- She was a teacher for 30 years; worked in the business office and was treasurer and business manager for SMA
- Father was a lawyer and state legislator. Parents hoped one of their children would go into religious life
- Traveled extensively around the world and throughout the US, visiting Rome, Holy Land, France, Belgium, Canada
- Interests – Tigers baseball and kept the names of every pupil she ever taught
- Was allowed to live for a year with Redemptoristines in Liguori, MO for a more contemplative experience.
- In 1997 she was asked to work in the library. “Donna needed a taller person to help put books away, especially on the upper shelves,” she explained. A lifelong reader, she was delighted.
- Master of Education degree, 1970, Marygrove.
- Quote: “I have come to appreciate that life is to be lived with and for others. That love is the key element in all we do.”



### St. Mary Academy

**Class of 1929 at their 25th reunion in 1954**

**They wore caps and gowns at the reunion because their original graduation outfits were destroyed in the Academy II fire.**

# Life as recorded in the convent Chronicles

## St. Mary of Redford, Detroit

Dec. 23, 1961 – “Saturday, Preparing for Christmas. Decorations going on all around the House, and at about NOON a big SURPRISE a Gift a Pool Table. DONOR, REVEREND FATHER FROM DIVINE PROVIDENCE, where our Sisters teach

Catechism every Monday and prepare the children for their Holy Communion.”

Dec. 26, 1961 – “THE POOL TABLES ARE BEING USED EVERY DAY AND NOW THE SISTERS HAVE LINED UP IN GROUPS FOR THE FINALS.”

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## Revisiting the poetry of IHM Sisters

### Spring Performance

The curtain rises,  
The show begins.

Act I, March,

with lingering snows  
blustery winds  
teasings of Spring  
in a bright crocus  
here and there,

intends to “steal the show”.

but...

Act II, April slips on stage

with an occasional summer-warm day  
daffodils and hyacinths  
nourishing showers  
Easter joys

yet...

Act III, Lovely May appears

with soft sun and breezes  
apples blossoms and tulips  
lacy green trees  
family outings  
becoming the glorious

“Star of Spring”

- Rose Marie Petranek, IHM

### A Preview of Resurrection

Every: dawning day,  
morning rising,  
sprouting seed,  
greening blade,  
furring willow,  
leafing tree,  
budding plant,  
ripening fruit,  
hatching egg,  
wiggling tadpole,  
crawling caterpillar,  
emerging butterfly,  
newborn babe,  
nourishing morsel,  
healthy body,  
healing wound,  
hopeful dream,  
bettering idea,  
growing understanding,  
good deed,  
converted sinner,  
enlivened Christian,  
marriage covenant,  
loved person,  
PROCLAIMS NEW LIFE.

- Marie Baptiste Ureel, IHM

# Among Ourselves



Sisters who transferred in to Monroe from other congregations enjoy lunch together. They are (back row, left to right) Sisters Lucy Abbey, Carrine Etheridge, Susan Mahalik, Connie Supan, Marge Fogarty, and Joan Lowell. Seated are Sisters Mary Bea Keeley, Marie Clark, Ursula Hughes, Rita Rinaldi and Virginia Pfau.

*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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