

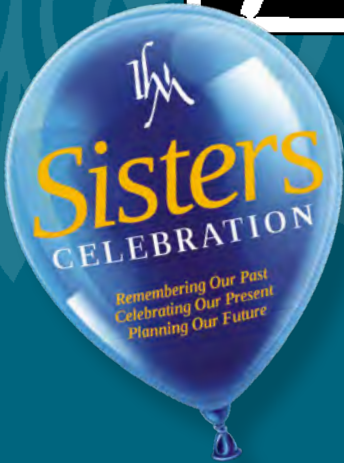
# CONNECTION

*A publication for the family and friends of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

Fall 2018

Volume 26, No. 3

Scranton, Pennsylvania



## HAITI CONNECTION FOCUS OF 2018 SISTERS CELEBRATION

The connection between the founding of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the island of Haiti, and the humanitarian work of two physicians, was the focus of the 2018 IHM Sisters Celebration. On Saturday, August 4, over 250 guests attended the event which serves as a major fundraiser for the IHM Foundation.

The Foundation honored the compassionate and lifesaving work in Haiti of Doctors Peter A. Cognetti, and John H. Doherty, Jr. Doctors Cognetti and Doherty were honored with the Sisters of IHM Spirit Award during the annual event.

“This year’s event raised over \$47,000 in support of the retirement needs of the IHM sisters living at *Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence* in Scranton,” stated John Murray, IHM Foundation president. Previous years’ funds were used to purchase recliners, mattresses, a TV monitor for the dining and conference area, new appliances, and new flooring. In the last five years, the IHM Foundation has raised over \$300,000 for the IHM Sisters.

*(Continued on back cover)*



*Front L-R: IHM Foundation Board members, Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, executive director; Maggie Mariotti, Sister Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM, Sister Ellen Maroney, IHM, and Nada Gilmartin. Back L-R: Dr. Peter A. Cognetti, award recipient; Foundation Board members, Atty. Michael McGrath; John Murray, Foundation president; Dr. John H. Doherty, Jr., award recipient; and Foundation Board member Tim McMullen.*



*Dr. Peter A. Cognetti, third from left, and his family.*



*Dr. John H. Doherty, Jr., first left, and his family.*

## NEW IHM LEADERSHIP ELECTED



*Pictured L-R: Sister Nancy DeCesare – Councilor, Sister Mary Ellen Higgins – Vice President and Councilor, Sister Ellen Maroney – President, Sister Theresa Jordan – Councilor, Sister Mary Reap – Councilor.*

One hundred twenty one (121) delegates of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, elected members for their leadership team during their Chapter of Elections at the IHM Center in Scranton. The new team was installed on August 25, 2018, and will serve a four-year term.

# PEOPLE & PLACES



## THERESA'S TREASURE PROVIDES FUNDING TO ASSIST THE HOUSE OF MARY

At the request of Sister Ancilla Maloney, IHM, Theresa's Treasure provided a \$1,000 grant to the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Co-Redeemer. The funding will assist in the completion of a dormitory for the House of Mary, a residence for abused girls or girls who are in danger of being abused. The residence is located in Pampamarca, Peru, which is 12,500 feet above sea level and extremely cold. The dormitory was severely damaged during a storm over two years ago. The grant will bring the sisters one step closer to their goal.

*L-R Sister Ancilla Maloney, IHM, and Sister Lucila of the Daughters of Mary and Co-Redeemer*

## SISTER KATHRYN KURDZIEL, IHM, RECEIVES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

Sister Kathryn Kurdziel, IHM, received the Sister M. Denis Donegan Award during Marywood University's Alumni Weekend. The Award for longtime service to Marywood is the most prestigious award bestowed by the Marywood Alumni Association. "It is bestowed on alumni of Marywood University who, through their personal and professional contributions, have visibly embodied Marywood's mission by using their Marywood educations in ways that demonstrate the University's call to live responsibly in a diverse and interdependent world," as stated on Marywood's website.



*Sister Kathryn Kurdziel, IHM*

## IHM VOLUNTEERS REPRESENTED AT ST. JOSEPH'S FESTIVAL

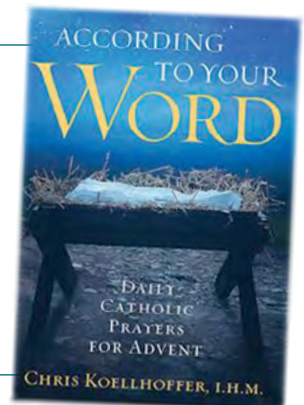


"In the spirit of God's unconditional love for all" (IHM Charism), IHM sisters, associates, and friends of St. Joseph's Center volunteered at the hot grill refreshment stand at St. Joseph's Festival, Scranton.

*Front row L-R: IHM Sisters Helene Cooke, Donna Korba, and Mary Elaine Anderson, IHM Associate Alejandra Marroquin and Marilyn Hunt. L-R back: IHM Candidate Liz McGill, IHM Sisters Grace Surdovel and Mindy Welding, IHM Associates Sheryl Lynn Sochoka and Pat Sheehan, IHM Sister Kate Clancy, IHM Associate Jane O'Neill and Sherri Nalbene.*

## NEW ADVENT BOOKLET BY SR. CHRIS KOELLHOFFER, IHM, AVAILABLE

*According to Your Word, Daily Prayers for Advent*, which includes a Scripture passage for each day of Advent, invites us to more fully put on the mind of Christ and to acquire the consciousness, the perspective, and the worldview of Emmanuel in our time and place. To obtain your copy of this new advent booklet by Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, IHM, email [koellhofferc@sistersofihm.org](mailto:koellhofferc@sistersofihm.org). Discounts are available for bulk orders by visiting [www.tinyurl.com/ydenzz5g](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydenzz5g) or calling 1-800-325-8414.





# CONNECTION

*Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Development Office IHM Center  
2300 Adams Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18509*

**Fall 2018, Volume 26, No. 3**

IHM Connection is published three times a year and is mailed free of charge.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome.

Sister Ellen Maroney, IHM  
**President**

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM  
**Director of Development**

If you would prefer to receive IHM Connection and other Communications from the IHM Sisters via email, please send an email to [armbrustl@sistersofihm.org](mailto:armbrustl@sistersofihm.org) with your preferred email address.

### Change of Address?

Contact the Development Office at 570 346-5431 or [armbrustl@sistersofihm.org](mailto:armbrustl@sistersofihm.org).

[www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org)



Please Recycle

IHM Connection is published by the Development Office of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the works and needs of the IHM Congregation.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Friends,

As you read the latest issue of IHM Connection, my hope is that you are inspired by the stories and photographs about our IHM sisters and friends who are carrying out our mission and ministries by reaching out. I invite you to become a more active part of the IHM family by reaching out and connecting with us through prayer and friendship. We welcome your support of our ministries and retired sisters through your donations and volunteering.

When we feed, clothe, educate, pray for or with, feel the pain of or are present to someone, we reach out. That's what Jesus did—reached out. That's what we do—reach out.

I am happy to share with you that we have elected a new leadership team who will serve the IHM Congregation for the next four years. Please join us in thanking these five sisters – Sisters Theresa Jordan, Mary Reap, Ellen Maroney, Mary Ellen Higgins, and Nancy DeCesare for accepting the call to guide and lead our congregation with such generous hearts. We extend a special thank you to Sisters Rosemary Goulet, Kathryn Clauss, Jean Louis Bachetti, and Ellen Carney who faithfully served the IHM community through their ministry on the previous IHM leadership team.

I also ask for your prayers for our newly professed sister, Elizabeth DeMerchant, our novice, Giovanna Fuentes Bendivez, and our candidate, Liz McGill who bring new life and new hope to our congregation. We are blessed by their presence among us.

Your gift, now or in the future through planned giving enables us to continue to help others through our ministries and provides the means to care for our retired IHM sisters. Know that the IHM sisters pray each and every day for you, our dear friends.

May God bless you,

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM  
Director of Development

## SUPPORTING THERESA'S TREASURE

The IHM Congregation continues to accept donations to support Theresa's Treasure, a charitable fund established by the IHM sisters in 1994. The fund provides grants to projects that are recommended by IHM sisters to the Theresa's Treasure distribution committee.

Since September 2017, the total amount for grants distributed was \$4,890. During that same period, \$2,255 was received in donations. Please consider a donation to Theresa's Treasure to help provide funding for education, housing needs, ministry to prisoners, and assistance to the poor. Just write Theresa's Treasure on your check note line or indicate it on your IHM gift envelope. To read about an important project supported by a Theresa's Treasure grant see page 2.

## TEMPORARY PROFESSION OF VOWS: A SIGN OF HOPE FOR TODAY'S WORLD

In the presence of family, IHM sisters and friends, Sister Elizabeth Ann DeMerchant professed temporary vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and committed her life to God and to the IHM congregation.

Sister Elizabeth believes that religious, by their public profession of vows, are a sign of hope for people today. She herself is a hopeful person and has freely chosen a life of vowed commitment with IHM sisters because she wants to do “something lasting and bigger” than she could accomplish by herself. In her own words, Sister Elizabeth asserts, “At the end of my days, if I have had less and a child has had an education or a chance for justice, and the earth is cleaner, then it will have been worth it.”



*IHM Sisters Donna Korba, Elizabeth DeMerchant, and Kathryn Kurdziel*

## SISTERS-TO-SISTERS, SCRANTON-TO-SYRIA

As the Baker's Dozen IHM Mission Group considered the plight of those victimized by the civil war in Syria, direct assistance did not appear to be an option. Collaborating with missionary sisters of other congregations, not a new concept for IHMs, did seem like a viable option.



Sisters of the Good Shepherd are missionaries assisting war refugees in Syria who have identified housing as a pressing need. Because the average rent costs 20 times their average salary, refugee families live together and children are sent to work rather than school. Baker's Dozen chose to assist refugee families with their rent and invited additional IHMs and friends to participate. So far, four months' rent has been contributed. In that spirit, Sister Angela Mary Parker, IHM, donated to the Sisters-to-Sisters project in memory of her parents who were born in Syria.

The philanthropic efforts of Pia Ferrario to assist Syrian refugees align with the desire of IHM sisters to support refugee families.

Pia, the 2017 Sisters of IHM Spirit Award recipient, has traveled with Catholic Relief Services. “These trips renew me as a human being and deepen my commitment as a Catholic. They provide an opportunity to see how our solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable people is helping refugees overcome adversity,” Pia reflected. “These experiences have left a deep imprint and inspired me to advocate for those in need.”

If you would like to help serve the Sisters-to-Sisters project in Syria, like the Baker's Dozen Mission Group, Sister Angela Mary, and Pia Ferrario, send your donation to:

Sisters of IHM  
IHM Center – Development Office  
2300 Adams Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18509-1514

*Please write your check to Sisters of IHM with Sisters-to-Sisters on the note line.*

# IHMS AWARDED GRANT

The Diocese of Pittsburgh Retirement Fund awarded the IHM Congregation nearly \$30,000 to repair three ballasted roof sections at the *Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence*. Sister Geraldine M. Wodarczyk, CSFN, delegate for the Most Rev. David A. Zubik, DD, expressed appreciation for the IHM sisters' gifts of prayer, presence, and service to the Diocese.



Special thanks to the IHM Foundation for generating the financial support needed to meet the needs of our retired sisters.

*Pictured is Sister Janet Rossiter, IHM, Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace (OLP) resident, enjoying the comfort of a new recliner purchased with funds raised by the Foundation.*

*Thank you  
to all of the generous supporters of  
the 2018 Sisters of IHM Celebration!*

Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
(Gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999)

ANDREW BROWN'S DRUG STORE

JOSEPH J. BANICK

TOM & LYN BLEWITT

MONICA Q. BUBSER

MARION A. CLAUSS

COGNETTI FAMILY

CONNOR-HELRING ASSOCIATES

PIA FERRARIO

DAVE & ANN HAWK

FAFI & TOM KARAM

LENAHAN & DEMPSEY P.C.

BILL & BEAN LYNETT

DRS. JOHN & MAGGIE MARIOTTI

MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY

MCGRAIL, MERKEL, QUINN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

PENA-PLAS COMPANY

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NANCY QUINN

VIRGINIA SHIELDS

DR. MICHAEL & LORI SHOVLIN

EILEEN SIMKO

ROMAINE STEC SOMERVILLE, CLASS OF 1947

TOYOTA OF SCRANTON

## *Legacy of Friendship*

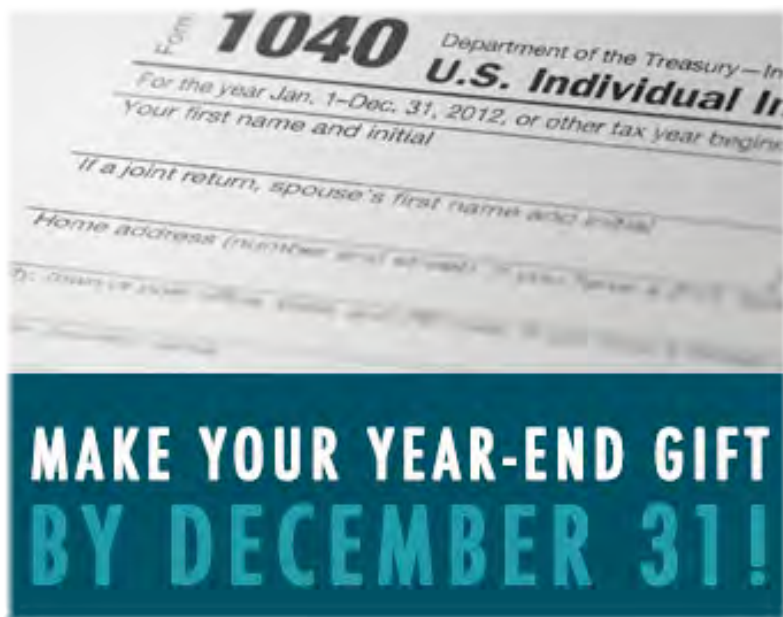
Have you considered remembering the Sisters of IHM in your estate planning? Gifts made through a will or trust are the most common form of bequests. Your generous financial support has a significant impact on the care of our elderly sisters and our ability to minister to others.

Connie Taylor was a humble, private person who worked hard and dedicated her life to teaching. She became acquainted with the IHM Sisters through her financial advisor. Though conservative in providing for her own needs, she was known for giving generously to the charitable organizations she believed in.

Recently, we learned that Connie had passed away and had gifted a portion of her estate to the Sisters of IHM. Her bequest came as a complete surprise. We just wish we could have had the opportunity to thank her personally!

With careful planning, you too can provide for your family as well as the causes you support. Consult a financial advisor or attorney about your options to leave a legacy with a powerful impact to the Sisters of IHM. If you have any questions, contact Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, Director of Development, at 570 346-5431 or [bubsera@sistersofihm.org](mailto:bubsera@sistersofihm.org).

# END OF YEAR GIVING OFFERS THE POTENTIAL TO LOWER TAXES



Have you considered making a charitable contribution to potentially lower your 2018 tax bill? It may just be the right decision that will enable you to itemize your taxes!

Gifts made on or before December 31, 2018, may be tax-deductible for this tax year. Gifts of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) are desirable gifts whether they have appreciated or depreciated in value.

*For more information, visit [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org). On the left, under "what you can do," click on Donate, then, scroll down and click on Year End Giving. Any questions, contact Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, at 570 346-5431 or [bubsera@sistersofihm.org](mailto:bubsera@sistersofihm.org). Consult with a tax or financial advisor.*

**Legal title and address are:**

Congregation of the Sisters,  
Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
IHM Center – 2300 Adams Avenue – Scranton, PA 18509

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

*We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2018 Every Picture Tells a Story Photo Contest!*

**FIRST PRIZE** – Ms. Brenda Spangenberg, Factoryville, PA – Winner of a 2018-2019 Silver Circle membership for her photo *Swinging Under the Apple Tree*. Brenda shared the following with her entry: "Sister Dionysia's kindness was the reason I stayed at Marywood College in 1962, and we remained close friends until her death in 1995."

**FIRST RUNNER-UP** – Pat Sanford Tierney, Jacksonville, FL – Winner of *Lessons from Life – A Book with Reflections for Busy People* by the Sisters of IHM. Pat, who retired after 29 years as Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of St. Augustine, FL, has never forgotten the positive influence Sister Nora Clark, IHM, had on her successful career in education.

**SECOND RUNNER-UP** – Mrs. Kathleen (Legnard) Vonderach, Sunnyvale, CA – Winner of a five-pack of IHM Remembrance Cards. Kathleen is the niece of two deceased IHM sisters - Sister Mary Francis Legnard and Sister Marie Dolora Legnard. We enjoyed reading the many happy memories Kathleen shared with us about her time with her "Aunties."

If you didn't have a chance to enter this year's photo contest, we will be doing it again next year!



*Brenda enjoying a visit at her home with Sister M. Dionysia O'Leary, IHM, in 1991.*



# SILVER CIRCLE



*L-R: Lori Armbrust, IHM Development staff member, IHM Sisters Thomas Mary Dougherty and Carol Lubas, Silver Circle volunteers.*

Congratulations and thank you to our 196 sellers who sold more than 7,086 Silver Circle memberships during the 2017-2018 year. The IHM Congregation is blessed to have a dedicated, enthusiastic group who helped to raise nearly \$150,000 for the IHM Retirement Fund! In appreciation, the IHM Development Office offers prayers and a monthly mass for all Silver Circle buyers and sellers.

As our sisters age, it is becoming more difficult for them to reach out to our faithful supporters. So if you would like to make a difference in the quality of life for our dear elderly sisters, please help us by becoming a Silver Circle seller.

There are 36 chances to win every month from October through June. A yearly membership is only \$25 and a total of \$30,600 is awarded. You, your family, and your friends do not want to miss this opportunity to support our sisters and win one of our many cash prizes.

Visit [www.SistersofIHM.org/SilverCircle](http://www.SistersofIHM.org/SilverCircle) or call 570-346-5431 for more information.



**Black Friday. Cyber Monday.**  
*SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE IHM SISTERS*

**#GIVINGTUESDAY™**

**November 27, 2018**



## FULL OF GRACE DAY – OCTOBER 20, 2018 – AT THE IHM CENTER

Sister Mindy Welding, IHM vocation director, gathered women religious and Young Adult Ministers from throughout the Scranton Diocese to create a day for high school and college women. The day will provide speakers on topics such as discernment, prayer, religious life 101, and vocation choices within the Church. The day will include a mini-XLT, which is an hour of praise and worship music, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the Eucharist.

*Congregations participating are: Little Sisters of the Poor, Bernadine Franciscan Sisters, Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Christian Charity, Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius, Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm and the Sisters of IHM. IHM Sisters Elizabeth DeMerchant, Maryalice Jacquinet, Fran Fasolka, Susan Armbruster and others will be involved. Shannon Kowalski, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult ministry for the Diocese of Scranton and other Youth and Young Adult ministers will also participate.*

*Contact Sister Mindy with inquiries: [weldingm@sistersofihm.org](mailto:weldingm@sistersofihm.org) or 570 346-5414.*

(Continued from front cover)

# 2018 IHM SISTERS CELEBRATION



Sister Thomas Mary Dougherty, IHM, has attended every one of the IHM Sisters Celebrations for the last five years. “The event just keeps getting better and better every year,” Sister Thomas Mary said. “The IHM sisters are so grateful to the Foundation and all they do to honor, show appreciation, and give back to the IHM sisters.”

For those who missed this opportunity to support our retired sisters, you can still give a gift online at [www.sistersofihm.org/donate](http://www.sistersofihm.org/donate) or mail it to: Sisters of IHM, Development Office, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509-1514.



Annette Gaughan and IHM Sister Jane Gaughan



IHM Sisters Rosemary Goulet and Ellen Carney



Suzanne Harper, Robert Wagner, IHM Sisters Mary Alice Kane, Dorothy Kibler, and Beth Pearson



David Wick, Rebecca Wick, Marion Clauss, Sister Katie Clauss, IHM, Jamie Acculto Mc Nerney, John Acculto, Katie Acculto Beckage, and Ellen Loughney



IHM Sister Carlita Bird and Eileen Aguiar



IHM Sisters Terry O'Rourke, Mary Jo Gallagher, and Atty. James Gillotti



IHM Sisters Ann McLaughlin and Eleanor Malanaphy



Special liturgies for ministry locations where IHM Sisters have served but are no longer present will be offered at the IHM Center chapel on the dates below at 8 a.m. All are welcome to attend or tune in via Ustream at: [www.ustream.tv/channel/ihm-tv](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/ihm-tv).

We recently received a letter from Kevin H. Hickey, executive director, Catholic Charities in Camden, NJ. He gratefully acknowledged our liturgy for the Diocese of Camden and Catholic Charities and offered the following prayer request:

“...that we at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden, serve in accord with the IHM mission to be prophetic witnesses to God’s presence in the lives of those we serve.”

Visit our website at [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org) and search “IHM Remain in our Love” for a list of ministry locations for which we will pray.

Dates	Ministry Locations In The Following Dioceses
October 16	FL, MS, GA, South America, and Guatemala
November 20	Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY
December 18	Western US, Canada, CA, NM
January 15	Brooklyn and NYC

We invite you to share any special intentions you may have for these masses with Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, at [bubsera@sistersofihm.org](mailto:bubsera@sistersofihm.org) or 570 346-5431.