



# CONNECTION

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

Spring 2017

Volume 25, No. 1

Scranton, Pennsylvania

## WELCOMING SPACE AT THE IHM CENTER UPDATE

Progress at the Welcoming Space at the IHM Center continues with paving along University Avenue, a new parking lot, and installation of guide rails recently completed. Landscaping and the finishing touches on the wellness trail will be complete in the spring. All facility improvements are designed to enhance the safety and space so that individuals and community groups can enjoy and participate in the expanded spiritual development programs at the Center. In carrying forward the challenge of Pope Francis' encyclical - *Laudato Si'* - to respect and care for our planet, the IHM Congregation is implementing best practices in the care of our environment and creating a place of natural beauty for reflection, prayer, and contemplation.

Sister Kathleen Clancy, IHM, the newly appointed Director of the Welcoming Space, is looking forward to working with the IHM Spiritual Renewal Task Force to provide a multipurpose, sacred space where people of many faiths and backgrounds will utilize the space for the enrichment of their own prayer and

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*Just as when Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin was commissioned with the placement of a stole on her shoulders by Father Louis Florent Gillet, CSsR, IHM associates gather to answer their call to continue the IHM mission with the same ritual.*

# PEOPLE & PLACES

## SISTER CHRISTINE KOELLHOFFER, IHM, PRESENTS WORKSHOP



Sister Christine Koellhoffer, IHM, presented a workshop at the Scranton Diocesan Congress, "Revolution of Tenderness," held recently at the University of Scranton. Sister Chris' presentation was called "Tenderly, in the Tangle of Our Minds," and focused on how discernment and reflective prayer inform our choices in volunteering the work of our hands and hearts.

## 12TH PRESIDENT OF MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY INAUGURATED

Sister Mary Persico, IHM, Ed.D. was welcomed with a celebratory mass and inauguration as the 12th president of Marywood University. In keeping with her commitment to make Marywood the University of Choice for talented, diverse, and intelligent men and women who want to make a positive impact on society at regional and global levels, the focus of Sister Mary's inaugural celebration was Marywood: A University for the World.

Sister Mary's professional background includes extensive leadership experience, and she has overseen a number of academic and leadership initiatives. Sister Mary was the President of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, from 2002-2010. She also served as the IHM Congregation's Treasurer from 1994-2002. A native of Hazleton, PA she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French/Education from Marywood. She earned a Master of Arts degree in French from Assumption College, Worcester, MA, and a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. Sister Mary holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Lehigh University.



## IHM FOUNDATION SPONSORS FEAST DAY ACTIVITIES



*John Murray, IHM Board president addresses the group before the meal.*

The Sisters of IHM Foundation sponsored several events for our retired sisters in Scranton to celebrate the congregation feast day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8. IHM Foundation Board members in attendance included: Mr. John Murray, president; Mr. Timothy

McMullen, treasurer; Atty. Timothy Lenahan, member; Dr. Maggie Mariotti, member.



*Sister M. Daria McGinn, IHM, greets Dr. Maggie Mariotti, IHM Board member.*



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Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
IHM Center, Development Office  
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Suggestions and contributions are welcome.

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

Some development publications, including IHM Connection, are available via email. To request email only communication, send an email to [armbrustl@sistersofihm.org](mailto:armbrustl@sistersofihm.org).

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[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



As the season of Lent will soon be upon us, I am grateful for the generosity that abounds at the IHM Center and Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton. The IHM Sisters are blessed with so many dear friends and benefactors. We are so blessed by all of you who show your support and concern. We are pleased to report that we have reached our Christmas Appeal goal for 2016! This program is a direct funding support for our dear retired sisters. Thank you!

As you read the latest issue of IHM Connection, my hope is that you are inspired by the heartwarming stories of IHM sisters, associates, family, and friends near and far. Read about Sister Kathleen Clancy, IHM who we recently welcomed as the new Director of the Welcoming Space in Scranton and friends like Mrs. Fran Tenderella of Portland, OR who extended her legacy of friendship with the IHM Sisters by naming the IHMs as a beneficiary in her will. Enjoy reading about the success of middle school children at an IHM co-sponsored school in Baltimore, MD and the parishioners at St. Therese's Parish in Shavertown, PA who have supported a needy family in Peru for over 22 years.

No matter where or who you are, we invite you to share in our mission.

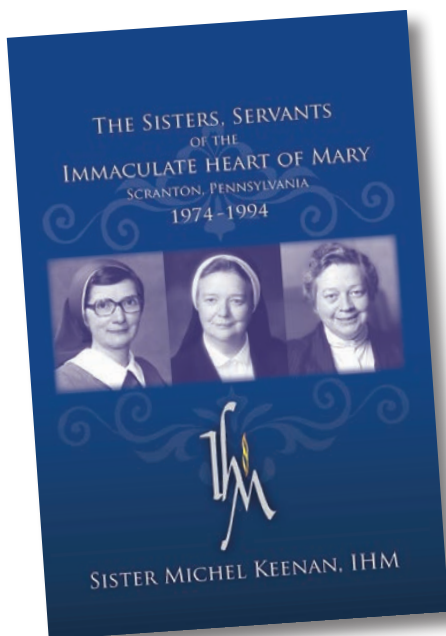
Do these stories inspire some response in you, in your parish, or in your family? Is there a passion for service in you? Come, walk with us. Check out our upcoming events where there are many opportunities for you to explore, learn, and serve with us!

At all times, and during all seasons, we thank God for our many blessings and for the support you have given us. Know that you are always remembered in the prayers of the IHM Sisters.

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM  
Director of Development

## NEW BOOK ON IHM HISTORY PUBLISHED

The newly published book, *The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA 1974-1994* by Sister Michel Keenan, IHM, covers the administrations of IHM Sisters Anne Fulwiler, Michel Keenan, and Redempta Sweeney. This publication follows a prior volume published in 2005, covering our history from 1919-1974. The book attempts to capture the impact of the events in the world during those times; especially the influence of Vatican II on the decisions for ministry and religious life in our congregation. Serious changes in religious life were not easy; readers will learn of the challenges to administrators and to individual sisters during these times. As we all engage in charting the future for this great congregation, knowledge of its past can be used wisely in creating a vision which carries on the original dream and recreates it for a new time with new challenges and unknown possibilities. With this work completed, Sister Michel has started researching the history of St. Joseph's Hospital, Nursing School, and Convent for her next book. To place orders (\$15.00 each plus shipping), contact Sister Mary Helen Slavinkas, IHM, at Heartworks at 570 330-8645 or email [heartworks@sistersofihm.org](mailto:heartworks@sistersofihm.org).



# ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS

Attorney Joseph Praske recently visited with IHM Sisters Francis Gabriel Lenihan and Ann Monica Bubser in Scranton. Both sisters were extra special teachers of his at St. John the Evangelist School in Silver Spring, MD. Joseph gratefully recalls the outstanding connection he shared with Sister Francis Gabriel, who he said provided an excellent education and sincere encouragement to him and his four siblings throughout their years at St. John's. Fortunately, Joseph and Sister Francis Gabriel were able to reconnect in recent years. This is why Joseph felt compelled to make a special trip to the *Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence (OLP)* to visit with Sister Francis Gabriel during her last days. A longtime supporter of the retirement program for the sisters at OLP. Joseph toured the facility and the IHM Center with Sister Ann where he was reunited with the sisters who had ministered at St. John's. Certainly a memorable day for Joseph, a resident of Laguna Beach, CA, who does not visit the East Coast often! The day after this very special visit and upon his return to CA, Joseph received a call from Sister Ann who shared with him that Sister Francis Gabriel had passed away. He will be eternally grateful that he took the time to visit Sister Francis Gabriel and all the sisters who mean so much to him and his family.



## 2016 ASSOCIATES UPDATE COME AND JOURNEY WITH ME

"Come with your voice, come with your heart. Come and journey with me." This sentiment from David Haas' song, *Come and Journey with Me*, captures the essence of our sisters' and associates' experience

in 2016. We celebrated the commissioning of 14 women from DE, NC, and PA. An additional 14 women in NY, PA, and FL formed new Circles of Grace to explore their desire to enter into the IHM Sister-Associate Relationship. Twelve Scranton area associates were welcomed by the congregation at the IHM Assembly in July. In September, we hosted the second IHM Sister-Associate Conference. One

hundred IHM Sisters and associates were present for prayer and reflection facilitated by Sister Chris Koellhoffer, IHM, Eucharistic liturgy, the commissioning of three associates from DE, and a panel discussion about the way associates are extending the IHM charism in their daily lives. In November, we joined the Mercy Sisters and their associates in celebration of the closing of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy. We rounded out the year by welcoming two more newly commissioned associates in December at a ceremony at *Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence*.



*Pictured L to R: Sisters Redempta Sweeney, Facilitator of Circle of Grace, Ellen Maroney, IHM, president, Jane O'Neill, director of IHM Sister-Associate Relationship, Jo-Ann Baca, Diane Braendly, and Joyce Marchese, newly commissioned associates.*

## MARYWOOD SEMINARY REUNION PLANS CONTINUE

The planning continues for Marywood Seminary's grand finale reunion – a three day event, scheduled for June 9-11, 2017, on Marywood University's campus. Class parties and activities are scheduled throughout the weekend. Tentative plans include registration on Friday the 9th, campus tours, a liturgy, reception, and dinner on Saturday the 10th and brunch on Sunday the 11th. Memorabilia will be on display throughout the weekend.



*Committee members seated L to R: Mimi Hoffman, Nada Gilmartin, and Pat Rosetti. Standing L to R: Marjorie Barlow, Sister Maryla Farfour, IHM, Marguerite Gruen, Elizabeth Murray, and Roseann Brutico.*

## MARYWOOD SEMINARY *Legacy Project*



Mimi Hoffman '62 will continue to accept written legacies, recollections, and anecdotes until April 2017 for a memory capsule. Once complete, the capsule will be preserved near the former site of the Seminary in the IHM Motherhouse which was destroyed by a fire in 1971. In addition, memorabilia will be presented to the IHM Sisters for their archives. "Sem" alumnae interested in participating are asked to send their favorite stories or memorabilia to:

*Marywood Seminary Legacy Project, P.O. Box 3956, Scranton, PA 18505 or via email to [legacyproject@cangemistudio.com](mailto:legacyproject@cangemistudio.com).*

*For the most up-to-date information, visit [Marywood Seminary's Facebook page](#).*

## PERPETUAL VOWS RENEWED

IHM Sister Elvia Yolanda Mata Ortega recently renewed her perpetual vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation. In Sister Elvia's response of readiness to make this commitment, she admitted that, "God has brought me here from the most insignificant town in Mexico, Santa Maria del Oro." Currently Sister Elvia serves as deputy director of Padre Severiano Martinez Home for Children in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

## IHM TRADITIONS CONTINUE AT MOTHER SETON ACADEMY

Not too far from the neighborhood chapel where Mother Theresa Maxis prayed as a child and young woman, there is a school co-sponsored by the Scranton IHM Sisters. Throughout their history, IHM Sisters have reached out to farmers, miners, immigrants, orphans, the sick and the homeless, women and, most especially, children.

The IHMs are partnering with five other religious congregations in co-sponsoring Mother Seton Academy in Baltimore, MD, a tuition-free, independent Catholic Middle School. The school serves over 70 boys and girls, grades 6 through 8, from urban, low-income families of all faiths and cultures. In partnership with their families, Mother Seton Academy is committed to each student's total development—academic, social, physical, spiritual, and emotional—by emphasizing serious study and personal responsibility.

Since its founding in 1993, Mother Seton Academy has continued the proud tradition and outstanding legacy of providing quality education, particularly to families in need. Breaking the cycle of poverty and transforming lives through education remains the focus of the school's dedicated, tireless staff.



*Above: Sister Denise Lyon, IHM, religion and library teacher at Mother Seton Academy, interacts with a group of students.*



*Right: Sister Helene Cooke, IHM, school counselor at Mother Seton Academy enjoys some time with a student.*



*Left: L to R: IHM Sisters Chris Koellhoffer, Jean Louis Bachetti, Elvia Yolanda Mata Ortega, Ellen Maroney and Susan Hadzima.*



— IHM SPOTLIGHT —

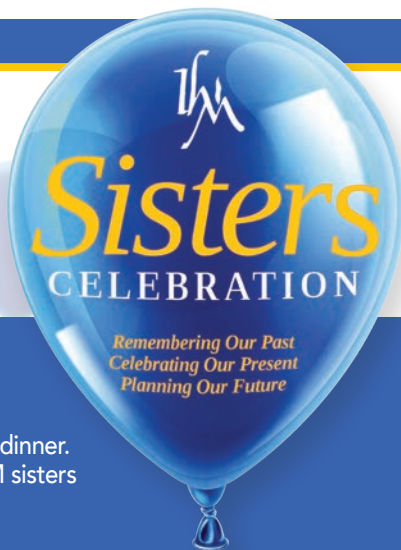
# SISTER MINDY WELDING, IHM, SHARES DAYS OF SERVICE

Sister Mindy Welding, IHM, director of vocations, recently spent several days of service in the Scranton area with seven wonderfully enthusiastic and welcoming Marywood University students and Professor Lea Dougherty. "The experience opened up a world of unlimited giving, laughter, selflessness, community, full presence to others, and a glimpse into the wounded yet beautiful community of Scranton," reports Sister Mindy.

Professor Dougherty, Marywood University Social Work Department, introduced the volunteers to the Weinberg Food Bank at the Msgr. McGowan Center for Healthy Living where they filled boxes of food for the elderly and learned about the environmental technology used to house the food there; the Community Intervention Center where they provided a hot meal

for those dropping in along with a few games with prizes and lots of conversation; Mass and brunch at the IHM Center; sorting and organizing clothes at the Church of the Good Shepherd while listening to stories of women who overcame hard times and are working towards degrees in social work; and a day spent painting a house with NeighborWorks.

A final reflection and prayer service led by Sister Mindy assisted all participants in naming the graces of the week, where the group said they saw God in one another and in those they met. "The gratitude for the gifts and talents God has given to us in order to help another person, overwhelming at times, allowed insight into a world never known but now we have a glimpse of because of this opportunity," concludes Sister Mindy.



## SAVE THE DATE!

\$100/person, includes cocktails and dinner. There is no cost to IHM sisters for attending.

The Sisters of IHM Foundation is hosting a special event honoring IHM Sisters on **August 5, 2017** to benefit the IHM retirement fund

To be held on the Marywood University campus.

## - Legacy of Friendship -



Many family and friends of the IHM Sisters have chosen to remember the congregation in their wills. Mrs. Fran Tenderella, a retired employee and member of St. Anthony's Church in Portland, OR recently passed away and honored the IHM sisters by including the congregation in her estate planning. In establishing a charitable bequest to benefit the IHM sisters, it was Fran's wish that our ministries would carry on into the future and that our sisters are cared for during their retirement years. "She was a beautiful person with a zest for life and a passion for her church," fondly recalls James Foote, her nephew.

Fran loved her parish and the IHM sisters whom she befriended many years ago when six sisters relocated to St. Anthony's from St. Lawrence Parish, also in Portland. Initially, the move was expected to be an intermediate step. According to the book, *The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA 1974-1994* written by Sister Michel Keenan, IHM, their convent, school, church, and rectory were being demolished as part of the 1960 Urban Renewal Project in Portland. But after raising \$80,000 for a new convent – a major investment for working families of St. Anthony's - Reverend James Carroll, parish administrator, obtained the necessary permissions for the community of sisters to stay. The sisters continued to serve many happy years in Portland where their positive influence and professionalism at the school and church will always be remembered.

The generosity of IHM family and friends, such as Fran, have a significant impact on continuing to fulfill the IHM mission. Our dear sisters pray for all of our IHM friends and benefactors, whose kind support helps to serve the needs of God's people.

If you, like Fran, would like to share the gift of your legacy with the IHM sisters, please consider remembering the congregation in your will. Our legal title and corporate address is: Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509-1514. For more information, call the IHM Development Office at 570 346-5431 or email Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM director of development at [bubsera@sistersofihm.org](mailto:bubsera@sistersofihm.org).

## 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1. Evenings of Prayer

Wednesdays, March 8, April 5, and May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the IHM Center Chapel

### 2. IHM Retreat: June 11-16

"Bearing Witness to the Holy" - Presenter: Sister Chris Koellhoffer, IHM. Join with IHM sisters at the Welcoming Space at the IHM Center to share time and deepen your faith. Space is limited, register early with Sister Jean Louise Bachetti, IHM, at 570-346-5402 or [bachej@sistersofihm.org](mailto:bachej@sistersofihm.org).

### 3. Celebrate with the IHM Jubilarians: Summer 2017

Join with us in prayers of gratitude this year as we honor 38 Jubilarians for 50-75 years of faithful service.

### 4. Sisters of IHM Celebration: Saturday, August 5

Gather with friends and supporters as we continue this annual fundraising tradition at Marywood University's Nazareth Dining Hall. Last year the celebration raised nearly \$70,000 for the IHM retirement fund.

For more events and details, visit [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org)

*(Continued from front cover)*

## WELCOMING SPACE AT THE IHM CENTER UPDATE

spirituality. In addition, the programs already in place at the IHM Center, i.e. Evenings of Prayer, Summer Retreats, Circles of Grace, high school retreat days, etc. will continue to welcome all.



## IHMS WELCOME A NEW CANDIDATE IN PERU



On November 19, 2016, Sister Ellen Maroney, IHM, welcomed Giovana Fuentes Bendivez into the IHM Candidacy program during a simple ceremony which took place in the Chapel of San Felipe, in Sicuani, Peru. IHM sisters and associates, friends, neighbors, members of the youth group, co-workers, and young women from the IHM House of Studies gathered to pray and support

Giovana as she began her journey toward membership in the IHM Congregation.

Giovana holds a degree in psychology from the Women's University of the Sacred Heart in Lima, Peru and is licensed as a clinical psychologist. In Sicuani, Giovana works part-time as a psychologist in two different agencies: one that serves exceptional children and one that helps protect abused children and adults. She is also studying English as she prepares to come to the United States to complete her formation.

## THE IDEA THAT BLOSSOMED INTO FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

In 1991 Sister Eileen Egan, an impassioned IHM Missionary to the people of Peru, visited St. Therese's Parish in Shavertown, PA to share her mission experiences with the faith community. After hearing Sister Eileen's presentation, Monsignor Kevin O'Neill and his parishioners offered to donate 2% of the highest collection each month to the Peruvian mission needs. Initially, the parish provided funds to cover the cost of medical treatment for a mother with tuberculosis.

The parish then adopted nine year old Rufina, a girl from Sicuani, Peru who was orphaned. With the support of the parishioners of St. Therese's, Rufina was placed in a home for children where she continuously experienced the love and support of the parish and the IHM Sisters. Today Rufina is a 35-year-old woman married to Valentine and the mother of six children, ages 3 to 14. The faithful financial contributions of St. Therese's Parish continue to bless Rufina and her family with the support they need.

Additionally, the fund provided financial support for a young boy, Victor, while he was living in Sicuani. As an adolescent, Victor accepted an invitation to come to the United States from Sister Eileen who made the arrangements through a Marywood University professor. After learning English and graduating from high school, Victor went on to work at Marywood University where he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees. He is currently employed in Scranton.

Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to Father James J. Paisley and the entire parish community of St. Therese's whose faithful stewardship inspires us all!



*Left: Rufina's sons, front: Adolfo, age 4; back L to R: Abraham, age 5, Moises, age 10, Ishmael, age 13, Isaac, age 12.*

*Below: Rufina often works for the Sisters. In this photo, her daughter, Lucia, is helping her wash curtains.*

