



CONNECTION

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

Spring 2019

Volume 27, No. 1

Scranton, Pennsylvania

WELCOME HOME: A NEW PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR FORMATION

The Sisters of IHM are pleased to announce that a new IHM formation house and community has been established. We are grateful for a wonderful partnership with Marywood University and generous donations from grantors and benefactors including Helen Bozek, who left a bequest in her will, and two special friends of the IHM sisters who wish to remain anonymous. The location of the Annunciation Community - McCarty Hall - on the campus of Marywood University and its proximity to the IHM Center, Our Lady of Peace Residence, and St. Joseph's Center offers women in initial formation the opportunity to root themselves in IHM history, charisma, spirituality, and mission.

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Pictured with Sister Ellen Maroney, IHM president, in front of McCarty Hall, are the IHM sisters who were named as part of the formative community. Front row, L-R: Sisters Betty Bullen, Mary Elaine Anderson, Joan McCusker, and Kieran Williams. Back row, L-R: Sisters Ellen Maroney, Mindy Welding, Liz McGill (candidate), and Giovana Fuentes Bendivez (novice).

IHM VOCATIONS PARTNER WITH DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Pope Francis has a great love for the young people of the church. Young adults are inspired and challenged by his love and guidance. "It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark," said Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland.

Responding to the Pope's lead, the Diocese of Scranton launched a series of events entitled #LeaveAMark. It called together religious vocation directors, college and high school students, and young adults who have been active in diocesan events, and asked them to brainstorm ideas to engage youth and to plan special celebrations throughout the year.

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Posing for fun is the planning committee on the opening day of National Vocation Awareness Week at the annual Diocese of Scranton #LeaveAMark service day and #LeaveAMark liturgy at St. Peter's Cathedral. Committee members include Most Reverend Joseph Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., front row, seated first on the left and Sister Mindy Welding, IHM, front row, seated last on the right.

Our Heritage Continues!

- *Community*
- *Formations*
- *IHM Foundation*
- *Vocations*
- *Service*
- *Spirituality*
- *Inspirations in Giving*

PEOPLE & PLACES



John Murray, IHM Foundation Board president, addresses the sisters at the dinner.

IHM FOUNDATION SPONSORS FEAST DAY ACTIVITIES

Once again the Sisters of IHM Foundation sponsored a dinner for OLP residents and a brunch for IHM Center residents in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In addition to hosting special events that raise awareness and generate much needed financial support for the congregation, the members of the IHM Foundation encourage IHM supporters to make planned gifts to the congregation. If you would like to assist the sisters and the work of the Foundation, please contact Sr. Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, at 570 346-5431.



L-R: Sister Mary Reap, IHM, John Murray, IHM Foundation Board president, Sister Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM, and Sister Damian Marie Dlugos, IHM.

IHM SISTERS ASSIST AT ANNUNCIATION HOUSE IN EL PASO, TX

Four IHM sisters spent a week in El Paso, TX, assisting the staff at Annunciation House in caring for the flow of refugees at the border. Collaborating with other sisters from different parts of the United States, they provided presence, assisted with refugee intakes, meal preparations, office tasks, and more.



Pictured front to back: IHM Sisters Donna Korba, Kieran Williams, Mary Elaine Anderson, and Sister Myra, PVBM work together to provide a hot meal for refugees. Sister Mary Ellen Higgins, IHM, was also present.

SISTER MILDRED CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY



Sister Mildred McCloskey, IHM, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with IHM sisters, family, and friends at *Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence* where she resides with 86 other IHM sisters and serves as a prayer minister. Sister worked in many ministries throughout her life including more than 30 years in the ministry of education.



CONNECTION

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

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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 with your preferred email address.

Change of Address?

Contact the Development Office at 570 346-5431 or armbrustl@sistersofihm.org.

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 of the IHM sisters,

As I begin my tenth year as director of development for the Sisters of IHM, I continue to be amazed by the outpouring of love and generosity you - our family, friends, and donors - provide to us, the IHM sisters. We count on you to help us sustain our many ministries. We are especially grateful for your continued generosity which helps us care for our elderly sisters who reside at the *Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence*.

In the face of expanding needs and shrinking resources, we must continue to answer God's call with faith, courage, trust, and resourcefulness. I invite you to consider supporting us in any way you can as we continue to serve God's people in a variety of ministries and at the same time try to meet the ever increasing medical expenses of our retired sisters.

In this latest issue of IHM Connection, you will read about the many ways our sisters continue to fulfill our mission by living and working lovingly among all persons. We welcome you to become more involved with the IHM family. Visit our website at www.sistersofihm.org for more information about how you can:

- Renew acquaintances with IHM sisters you knew in the past.
- Meet the IHM sisters to learn more about our lives and our works.
- Become an IHM sister.
- Serve as an IHM associate.
- Become an IHM prayer group member.
- Support the ministries and retirement needs of the IHM sisters with a donation.

Thank you for your financial and prayerful support of our IHM sisters.

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM
Director of Development

IHM CO-SPONSORED MINISTRY – ASEC



Sr. Prema (right) working with other sisters during ASEC's SLDI Administration training workshop in Zambia.

Catholic sisters dedicate their lives to service, working tirelessly to improve the conditions of their congregations and communities. Many African sisters lack the opportunity to learn new skills. They lack the education and resources to carry out their important work.

ASEC – African Sisters Education Collaborative – is a co-sponsored ministry of the IHM sisters. ASEC serves ten of the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. ASEC's goal is to increase African sisters' access to education and professional training enabling them to enhance and expand educational, healthcare, social, and spiritual services for the people they serve.

Sr. Prema Antony, PBVM serves at Presentation Secondary School where using the skills she learned in ASEC's Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) program, she secured a grant for \$15,000 which paid for science lab equipment for the school.

SISTER ELEACE CONTINUES TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS



Through our ministries, the IHM sisters are committed to responding to the needs of others. For example, Sister Eleace King, IHM, recently began a new ministry as the coordinator of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program in Scranton, PA.

Sister Eleace is also celebrating her 50th jubilee as an IHM sister this year.

The ESL Program is sponsored by the Sisters of IHM in collaboration with St. John Neumann Parish. The adult students are from several different countries and speak different languages. The program is staffed entirely by volunteers, thirteen of whom are IHM sisters. Non-native speakers are provided with the skills they need to become fluent in reading,

writing, and speaking English. The program mainly serves those who live on a limited income and desire to learn English to enhance the quality of their lives and to participate in the education of their school-aged children. This is an example of the way our sisters are dedicated to easing the burdens of those with special needs.

Sister Eleace, pictured left, earned a BA from Marywood University, an MS from Yeshiva University, and an EdD from Johns Hopkins University. She has spent

nearly 35 years in the ministry of education. Sister Eleace recognizes the importance of communicating effectively with health care providers, social service agencies, and potential employers and is committed to helping her students reach their full potential and strengthening their family lives.



To support the ESL Program, donate online at sistersofihm.org/donate or send a gift to Sisters of IHM, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509-1514. To volunteer as an ESL tutor or become an ESL student, contact Sister Eleace at 570 955-6550 or sreace@gmail.com.

Legacy of Friendship



The most meaningful gifts come from people like you who care deeply about the Sisters of IHM. Because the IHM sisters hold a special place in their hearts, Eugene and Mary Murphy showed their support for our ministries and for the care of our elderly sisters through a donor-advised fund.

“We have been blessed in our marriage and our careers,” said Mr. Murphy. “Our children received the benefit of a Catholic education at St. Mary’s in Manhasset, NY.” Gene and Mary Murphy have always been supportive and encouraging anytime the sisters have asked for their assistance with a project. “We witnessed the passion the sisters have for their mission. We feel very strongly that since the sisters have given their lives, we should support their endeavors,” reflected Gene.

The IHM sisters are forever grateful to the Murphys for remembering us with their generous gifts.

SISTERS' SAFETY A PRIORITY

The IHM sisters are grateful to the Diocese of Pittsburgh for providing funding to enhance the security surveillance system at the IHM Center. By installing electronic readers at the entries and distributing credentials (swipe cards) to authorized users, access will be limited to staff, residents, and visitors. Other authorized entrants may be



buzzed in, thereby assuring the safety and well-being of the 68 retired and semi-retired IHM sisters who reside in this building as well as our many visitors throughout the year.

The long-term consequences of falls among older adults are extensive and life-changing. That is why it is important to do everything possible to avoid falls in the first place. Thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors, the installation of handrails is complete on the second and third floors of the IHM Center, creating a safer environment and reducing the risk of devastating falls. Pictured is Sister Ann Newell, IHM.

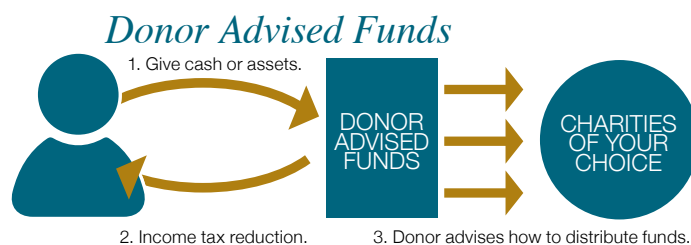


DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY

Through careful planning, you can ensure that your present financial needs and those of your loved ones are met. A donor-advised fund provides the means for you to give to IRS-qualified charitable organizations and plan for a future legacy reflecting your values and vision. You may be eligible for an immediate tax deduction when you contribute to a donor-advised fund.

Visit www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/donor-advised-funds or contact your financial advisor for more information about donor-advised funds.

Visit www.sistersofihm.org/what-you-can-do/donations-support/planned-giving/index.html for more information about donor-advised funds and planned giving with the Sisters of IHM.



IHM'S SERVE ALL PEOPLES IN ALL SEASONS AND ALL PLACES



Since 1845, IHMs have always responded to the urgent needs of the times. Today, we meet the critical needs of people throughout the United States, Latin America, and South America through our ministries of education, health care, social services to the marginalized, and pastoral/spiritual ministries.

Leadership teams in the IHM Congregation, from 1845 to the present, have prayerfully discerned the “signs of the times,” in fulfilling the mission begun by our founders Rev. Louis Florent Gillet, C.Ss.R. and Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin. What does this statement mean?

The original mission to the poor and vulnerable populations continues, along with many former commitments, in a variety of new ministries. These include care of the sick and elderly, children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities, literacy and English as a Second Language programs, food and clothing banks, and publishing to name a few.



Sister Theresa McElroy, IHM, during the early 1970s, packing clothing for Christmas packages for poor Peruvian families. The Christmas package included a toy for each child age 12 or under, clothing for every member of the family, and food for the entire family.

IHM candidate Liz McGill and novice Giovana Fuentes Bendivez spent the month of January this year in Sicuani, Peru. The experience was an opportunity to immerse themselves in the Andean culture and integrate into the day-to-day spiritual, ministerial, and social activities of IHM Sisters Eileen Egan, Ancilla Maloney, and Norma Poma Arpi. Liz and Giovana helped the sisters with an educational and recreational summer program offered to over 100 children. They also traveled to Lima where Sister Dora Vizcarra introduced them to Peruvian culture, history, and art on the coast.

LOOKING FOR A DEEPER EXPERIENCE WITH GOD?

Consider Becoming An IHM Associate

IHM associates are women and men from all states of life and various creeds who are seeking a deeper experience of God for their own transformation and for the transformation of the world. This distinct relationship with the Sisters of IHM creates a mutual bond between the associates and the sisters that widens the circle of Jesus' unconditional love for all.

Meet the IHM associates from Peru:

Delfina is a parish catechist, high school religion teacher, and one of two representatives on the diocesan level.

Matilde is a parish adult catechist and a parish representative to the diocese. Matilde is bi-lingual and speaks Quechua, the language of the Incas, and Spanish. She uses both languages to clarify religious concepts for the adults in the parish.

Casilda works part-time as parish secretary and is a youth catechist in the parish. People in the outlying communities ask her to pray with them on various occasions.

Maura helps with the celebration of liturgy every Sunday in Pampa Anza, one of six Andean communities served by the sisters who minister in Sicuani. Maura joins Sister Eileen every week when they pray with the police of Sicuani in their compound. Maura celebrates funerals in the parish in Sister Eileen's place when she is away.

Want to learn more about our associate program? Contact Ms. Jane O'Neill, director of IHM associate relationship at 570 963-2480 or oneillj@sistersofihm.org.



At a recent ceremony in Sicuani, Peru, three IHM sisters renewed their vows and four IHM associates renewed their commitment to live the core values and charism of the IHMs. Pictured L-R: IHM associates Delfina Hualla Condori, Matilde Rendon Mendoza, Casilde Marocho Huahuati, and Maura Aguilar Paiva, and IHM sisters Norma Poma-Arpi, Ancilla Maloney, and Eileen Egan.

IHM VOCATIONS

(continued from cover)

There are many ways for you to leave your mark and participate in the mission and life of the IHM Congregation. Have you considered becoming an IHM sister? If you do not feel drawn to this option, we invite you to help us continue our mission by becoming an IHM volunteer, an IHM prayer associate, or serve as an advocate for the IHM Congregation and encourage others to consider joining us.

If you would like more information about planning a Vocation Day or a speaking engagement in your parish or school, please contact Sr. Mindy Welding, IHM, at 570 346-5414 or email weldingm@sistersofihm.org.

WELCOME HOME

(continued from cover)

The new home was a huge undertaking which involved the transformation of McCarty Hall from a university dormitory to a home for seven IHM sisters. The project included hidden challenges within the walls, floors, and ceilings which required updating heat, water, and electrical systems. While the renovations were underway, the sisters collected and sorted through furniture, appliances, linens, dishes, and more which arrived from closing convents and apartments, Friends of the Poor, and personal donations.

In addition to serving as a formation house, Sister Mindy Welding, IHM, director of vocations, explained that McCarty Hall will also be a gathering place for college and high school students who would like to learn more about women religious.

We ask for your prayers for Giovana, Liz, and the sisters who accompany them. Through their formation experience, may they deepen their call and commitment to religious life, the IHM congregation, and the people they serve.



7,030 Silver Circle subscriptions have been sold during the 2018-2019 season so far! Thank you to all of our sellers and buyers for your continued enthusiasm for a program that benefits our retired sisters. We have **188 sellers**, but would love to add **at least 10 more**. We have sellers from previous years who have not sold any subscriptions yet this year. It's not too late! Call or email the IHM development office to get your tickets to buy or sell today! 570 346-5431 or armbrustl@sistersofihm.org

WHY WE GIVE TO THE IHMs – THE DONORS' STORY

The following is a reflection from Missy Wayne, a longtime supporter of the Sisters of IHM.

My connection with the Sisters of IHM has its roots in Susquehanna (Depot), PA in Susquehanna County where I was raised. This is the same place where Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin, IHM, (foundress of IHM Congregation) was invited by Msgr. Vincent O'Reilly to educate the children of a growing population of immigrant farmers and railroad workers.

I received years of education from the IHM sisters including at St. John's Elementary School and one year of high school at Laurel Hill Academy. I received a bachelor's degree from Marywood University.



Missy and Mike Wayne.

(Continued back page)



THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Sister Loretta Mulry, IHM, a prayer minister at OLP and an editor for ASEC was featured in our letter of support mailed in early December. Thank you to our dear IHM sisters, our families, and our friends who helped us exceed our fundraising goal by 30%!

(Continued from previous page)

When the IHM sisters left Laurel Hill Academy in 1969 due to shrinking enrollment, I wrote a letter to Mother M. Beata Wertz, IHM, asking her to keep the school open. Sadly, I did not receive a reply. In 1974, I wrote to Mother Beata again asking to be admitted as a candidate in the IHM order. This time she wrote back with a “yes” answer. I remained in the congregation until 1984.

Over the past 34 years, I have returned to Scranton for IHM and Marywood events. I married Michael Wayne in Elmira, NY in 1991. He has a history of Catholic education involving the Sisters of Mercy (Rochester, NY) and the Vincentian Fathers (Niagara University).

Together, Mike and I support the ministries of the IHM sisters, both prayerfully and financially. We want to express our gratitude to all the sisters who provide education, health care, administrative assistance, and aid to the people of God in many places and in many ways. The IHM sisters are deeply rooted in the lives of all the people they serve. They are a “spirited” group of religious women intent on never giving up on helping others. Collectively, they demonstrate great wisdom and deep faith.

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENINGS OF PRAYER

Wednesdays, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton (top of University Avenue, just beyond Marywood’s Campus).

All are welcome to attend or tune in via Ustream at www.ustream.tv/channel/ihm-tv.

JUBILARIANS TO BE HONORED

Join with us in prayers of gratitude on July 28, 2019, as we honor 40 Jubilarians for their 25, 50, 60, 70, and 75 years of service.

SISTERS OF IHM CELEBRATION

Gather with friends and supporters on August 3, 2019, as we continue this annual fundraising tradition.



The graphic features a central blue balloon with the IHM logo and the text "Sisters CELEBRATION" in yellow and white. Below the balloon, it says "Remembering Our Past Celebrating Our Present Planning Our Future". To the right, the text "SAVE THE DATE!" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below that, it says "The Sisters of IHM Foundation is hosting a special event honoring IHM Sisters on August 3, 2019 to benefit the IHM Retirement Fund". On the left, it says "\$100/person, includes cocktails and dinner. There is no cost to IHM sisters for attending."



Remain in Our Love continues with special liturgies for parishes and schools where IHM sisters have ministered but are no longer present. Recently we received a request to pray for the General Chapter of the Dominican Sisters of Hope in Ossining, NY who are aware of the good works of the IHM sisters and appreciate our prayers. Masses will be celebrated at the IHM Center chapel at 8 a.m. on the dates below for the following locations:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 27 | Dioceses of Albany and Syracuse |
| March 27 | Diocese of Scranton |
| April 24 | Dioceses of Harrisburg, Altoona-Johnstown, Allentown, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Grand Rapids, Detroit |
| May 22 | Dioceses of Baltimore, Washington DC, Fort Wayne-South Bend |

Please check our website at www.sistersofihm.org/what-you-can-do/donations-support/remain-in-our-love-liturgies-schedule-and-information for details including the ministry locations for which we will be praying. All are welcome to attend or tune in via Ustream at www.ustream.tv/channel/ihm-tv.

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