



CONNECTION

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

Spring 2020

Volume 28, No. 1

Scranton, Pennsylvania

IHMS CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR ALL

The Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was founded 175 years ago in Monroe, MI by Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin and Father Louis Florent Gillet, C.Ss.R. In the beginning, there were just three IHM sisters who lived in a log cabin on the banks of the Raisin River. In January 1846, two months after their arrival, the sisters established the Young Ladies' Academy with 40 young women enrolled. The sisters and Father Gillet desired to bring the faith to French Canadian immigrants. By the end of the first decade, the sisters founded schools in and around the area of Monroe, MI. Over time, they branched out to Philadelphia and Scranton. Today there are three distinct congregations which grew from the small group of three women with Father Gillet in 1845.



- The IHM Congregation in Scranton, PA
- The IHM Congregation in Monroe, MI
- The IHM Congregation in Immaculata, PA

The IHM Charism: In the passionate spirit of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, we joyfully participate in the redeeming love of Jesus which impels us to proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love for all. We embrace Mary, the first disciple, as our model of a life rooted in God.

While honoring the history and traditions of the past, today our dedicated sisters continue to serve God's people in a variety of ministries, and look forward to the future with the same energy and spirit as our founders. ☪

SHARING OUR FAITH SECURING OUR FUTURE

In the face of expanding needs and shrinking resources, the Sisters of IHM continue to respond to the challenges of the times with faith, courage, trust, and resourcefulness. Many retired sisters still possess a passion for the mission and a desire to continue in ministry. These sisters, many of whom spent years in education, continue in retirement to alleviate the hardships of the poor and serve in various service ministries. With appropriate care, sisters continue to live independently at the IHM Center and continue in the ministries and mission of the IHM Congregation.

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PEOPLE & PLACES



IHM FOUNDATION SPONSORS FEAST DAY ACTIVITIES

Once again the 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 IHM sisters and the work of the Foundation, please contact Sr. Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, at 570 346-5431.

L-R: Tim McMullen, Foundation president; Sr. M. Daria McGinn, IHM; Foundation board members John Murray and Sr. Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM.

IHM NOVICE PARTICIPATES IN STUDENT SERVICE TRIP



Sister Giovana Fuentes Bendivez, IHM, participated in a Marywood University service trip as part of her novitiate experience of IHM mission. She accompanied six students and vocation director, Sister Mindy Welding, IHM, who organized the trip to Frenchville, PA. The sisters and the students participated in social justice outreach to the elderly, the homebound, women, infants and children at risk.



Sister Joanela Ryan, IHM, at Sacred Heart School many years ago.

MSA GYMNASIUM DEDICATED



Gaudete Sunday was a day of rejoicing for the long-awaited completion and dedication of the new Mother Seton Academy gym. Mother Seton Academy is an IHM co-sponsored ministry in Baltimore City, MD. Pictured L-R: IHM Sisters Suzanne Delaney and Mary Reap, Bishop Dennis Madden, Brother Frank O'Donnell, SM, Sister Peggy Juskelis, SSND.

IHM SISTERS PRESENTED LEGACY AWARD

The Congregation of the Sisters of IHM was unanimously selected by the Sacred Heart School, Mount Holly, NJ, to receive the Legacy Award at the school's annual Diamond Gala. Each year the Legacy Award is given to a person or organization that has made a lasting impact on the school.

"As we celebrate our 75th year at Sacred Heart, we are keenly aware of and eternally grateful for the strong foundation given to us by the IHM sisters. Under the direction of the Sisters of IHM, our school not only opened, but continued to grow and flourish," said Kathryn M. Besheer, principal of Sacred Heart School, Mount Holly, NJ.



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,

The Sisters of IHM are celebrating a major milestone during 2020 – the 175th anniversary of our founding by Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin and Father Louis Florent Gillet, C.Ss.R. Many of you have known the IHM sisters for most of your lives, while others have just met an IHM sister for the first time. However long it is, I hope you enjoy the historical overview in this issue of Connection illustrating how the IHM sisters have impacted the lives of so many over the past 175 years.

Know that you - our dear friends, family, and benefactors - inspire the sisters, too! Your deep care and concern for our retired sisters and the future of our Congregation is sincerely appreciated. Thank you for all the ways you support us - a gift or card at Christmas, the purchase of a Silver Circle membership, or the remembrance of the sisters in your will. We are especially grateful to all of you who remember the sisters in your prayers.

We welcome you to walk with us as we journey and rejoice in our mission to serve God's people.

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM
Director of Development

SHARING OUR FAITH. SECURING OUR FUTURE. CONTINUED FROM COVER



IHM Sisters Mary Martha Gardiner, Daniel Mary Heisey, and de Montfort Babb at a Silver Circle drawing in the IHM Center dining room.

Built in 1961, the IHM Center originally served as a novitiate for young sisters. Today this building is a valued and treasured resource where 51 semi-retired and retired sisters ranging in age from 65 to 90 reside. It also houses the IHM leadership and administration offices and the IHM Welcoming Space and Land Reclamation Project.

There have been numerous changes to the residential facility since the current setting was created almost 60 years ago. As congregation, we are faithful stewards of our resources and after much research and consideration the following new projects have been identified as having the highest priority: a communications system and its related infrastructure, improved fire safety measures, a heat exchanger for the chapel's air conditioning system, and restroom modifications for handicapped accessibility.

As you can imagine, it is quite challenging and expensive to keep our sisters secure and cared for now and into the future. It is our hope that with the financial support of IHM family, friends, and benefactors we can provide our elder sisters with an environment that prioritizes safety, wellness, and personal independence. Will you please consider a gift to help us provide care for our aging IHM sisters?

In addition to the IHM Center, nearly 100 sisters requiring assisted or skilled care reside at *Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence*. Your gift today will honor these dear sisters who spent their lives caring for others. It is now our time to care for them.

IHM HISTORICAL TIMELINE



Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin is elected superior of Oblate Sisters of Providence (OSP) in Baltimore, MD

November 10, 1845

IHM Congregation is founded (as Sisters of Providence) at Monroe, MI.



December 8, 1854

Dogma of the Immaculate Conception is proclaimed. The Congregation has been under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception from its beginning.



August 23, 1858

First IHM mission in PA opens at St. Joseph's in Susquehanna County.

1841

1843

1845

1847

1854

1858

1859



September 19, 1845

Mother Theresa accepts invitation to Monroe, MI from Fr. Gillet.

Father Louis Florent Gillet initiates his ministry in Monroe, MI.

September 2, 1859

Bishop John Neumann blesses the new IHM motherhouse and convent in Reading, PA – the second IHM mission in Pennsylvania.



September 8, 1915

IHM sponsored work, Marywood College (now Marywood University), first college for women in NEPA and the first Catholic college for women in the state founded in Scranton, PA.

November 21, 1956

Marian Convent in Scranton is dedicated.



July 19, 1965

Scranton IHMs global ministry in Latin American begins in Lima, Peru.



1915

1918

1926

1956

1961

1962

1965

October 5, 1918

IHM sisters begin to serve the needs of the community in the influenza epidemic in Scranton, PA.



July 6, 1926

St. Joseph Hospital in Carbondale, PA opens its doors.

January 1961

Scranton IHMs receive Pontifical Approbation, the status as a papal congregation.



May 30, 1962

The novitiate building, now the IHM Center, is dedicated.

IHM co-sponsored work, Mother Seton Academy, is established in Baltimore, MD.



Haiti outreach connection with the Little Sisters of St. Therese begins.



September 7, 1997

IHM sisters celebrate Marywood College and its elevation to University status.

October 10, 2003

Reunion in Scranton of Sisters of IHM, Sisters of St. Casimir, and Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

1991

1995

1997

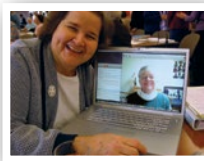
1999

2002

2003

November 10, 1995

IHM Sesquicentennial - three IHM Congregations celebrate 150th anniversary of their founding.



July 12, 1995

The first Congregation of Catholic Women Religious on the World Wide Web launched by the Sisters of IHM and created by Sr. Kathleen M. Burns, IHM.

Inauguration of African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), an IHM co-sponsored work.



Incorporation of Friends of the Poor, an IHM sponsored ministry.

1841-2020

The Diocese of Scranton is established. Soon thereafter, the Scranton branch of IHMs is formed.



Saint Joseph's Foundling Home, Scranton PA (now known as St. Joseph's Center) becomes a sponsored mission of the IHM Congregation.

August 29, 1907
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Casimir is founded with the assistance of the IHM Congregation.



1868 1885 1889 1890 1907 1909

February 9, 1885
IHM Congregation is incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of PA.



July 22, 1889
Mother Mary Magdalen Jackson is the first superior general to be elected by the sisters.



September 11, 1909
Congregation of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius is founded with assistance of the IHM Congregation.



IHM sponsored work, Our Lady of Grace Montessori School and Retreat Conference Center is established in Manhasset, Long Island, NY.

June 22, 1972
IHM sisters provide assistance to ravaged flood victims when the Susquehanna River overflows during Hurricane Agnes.



Friends of the Poor is founded as a sponsored ministry of the IHM Congregation in Scranton, PA.

1968 1971 1972 1983 1986 1987



February 22, 1971
Motherhouse of the Scranton IHM Congregation is destroyed by fire.

January 1983
Scranton IHM Congregation initiates lay associate and volunteer program for prayer and active ministries in missions.

March 25, 1987
Opening of formation program in Peru.



July 23, 2004
Ground breaking for the Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence (OLP), Scranton, PA.

January 15, 2006
Marian Convent is closed, IHM Sisters move into OLP.

September 2015
100th anniversary of Marywood University.



25 year anniversary of mission in Sicuani, Peru.

FALL 2019
NativityMiguel school relocates to the campus of Marywood University.



2004 2006 2015 2017 2018 2019 2020



February 14, 2015
IHMs celebrate the 50th anniversary of IHM service in Peru.



September 2015
IHM co-sponsored work, NativityMiguel School of Scranton opens in Scranton, PA.

April 2018
Blessing of the Welcoming Space and Land Reclamation project at the IHM Center.



2018
Covenant relationship established with Sisters of St Casimir.

July 2020
rooted in history, focused on the future, united in fire-175th Anniversary Celebration of the IHM Congregation.





GET GROWING THIS SPRING!

The EarthCARE Committee continues to explore climate change as one of the critical issues to which the IHM Congregation is committed and has chosen for prayer, reflection, and action for justice. We're growing in understanding that this is a call to wholeness on every level. The EarthCARE committee invites you to explore how you can best advocate for the world now and into the future

One way to tend to the well-being of our planet is to live with awareness of those who will come after us. We can practice this awareness by consciously selecting and planting native species of trees, shrubs, and flowers which are more resistant to altered habitats, more resistant to local pests and diseases, and more likely to survive into the future. Planting native species has a wider reach because these same species provide food, shelter, and habitat for birds, butterflies, and other pollinators.

The EarthCARE committee is available to provide information and assistance to anyone looking to plant native species. We invite you to contact Sister Donna Korba, IHM at korbad@sistersofihm.org for information about the trees, plants, and flowers native to the places where you live and work.

Marywood University students assist with soil amendments and tree and shrub planting in the Friendship Garden at the IHM Center.

IHM VOCATION DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES IN STUDENTS' RETREAT

Sister Mindy Welding, IHM, director of vocations, spoke at a retreat for the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wilmington, DE. The participating schools - Padua Academy, St. Mark's High School, and St. Elizabeth High School - sent 25 junior high school girls to participate in a day exploring "Our life is like a pilgrimage: Where is God taking me?"

Sr. Ann David Strohinger, OSF, presented the opening "What's God saying to me?" Sister Mindy and Abbe Truschel, a young adult involved in the Diocese of Scranton, spoke about pilgrimage as the road of their life - inviting participants to draw a road and look at the peak and valley moments of their lives. Participants used backpacks, scallop shells, road signs, and markers as symbols, and indicated with what and whom they want to travel. While reflecting on the signs and symbols, students were asked to think about how they want to travel during the next phase in their lives. Sr. Marianne Lallone, IHM, ended the day, discussing what vocation means because the students may be hearing the call of who to be and what to do.



A DAY OF REJOICING AND CELEBRATION

In the chapel of St. Petersburg's Bon Secours Maria Manor, Rose Coryn, Mary Lynn Delfino, Amy Kinnard, Sheri Scheutzow, and Jane Shafer were commissioned as IHM associates. IHM associates are women and men who commit to witness the IHM Core Values and Charism in their daily lives. Also, Beverly Capanna and Joan Morey renewed the commitment they first made during 2012. IHM Sisters Flo Marino and Lisa Perkowski have guided these women over the years.

First row, L-R: IHM Sister Lisa Perkowski, Joan Morey, Beverly Capanna, and IHM Sister Flo Marino. Back row, L-R: Rose Coryn, Amy Kinnard, Sheri Scheutzow, Jane O'Neill, director of IHM associates, Mary Lynn Delfino, Jane Shafer and IHM Sister Ellen Maroney, congregation president.



*The late
Geraldine McGrady*

Legacy of Friendship

The late Geraldine McGrady was a lifelong friend of the IHM sisters who chose to remember the congregation as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy. A graduate of Marywood Seminary High School and Marywood College, Geraldine devoted her life to education and retired after years of teaching at Wyoming Valley West School District in Kingston, PA.

A gift of life insurance is an easy way to further support the IHM mission at relatively little cost to you. In the event that you may not need your life insurance policy, or that this policy will not benefit identified survivors, this could be the right choice for you and will have a lasting impact on the IHM sisters who continue to serve God's people in a variety of ministries.

Contact Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, at 570 346-5432 or bubsera@sistersofihm.org with any questions about how your gift to the IHM sisters can promote loving service to others.

WHY I GIVE – A DONOR'S STORY

A reflection from Michele McDade



Michele and Mark McDade, longtime supporters of the Sisters of IHM.

The IHM sisters have been a part of my life since 1962. While attending St. Patrick's High School, I became aware of the dedication of the sisters who encouraged learning and led such disciplined lives. Two sisters who really impacted my life were Sister Ancilla and Sister Marianne. My husband, Mark, suggested that we honor the sisters by making a donation, and we have been donating whenever we are able. We know what the sisters have done in the past and what they continue to do today to enhance the lives of the less fortunate.

As a former St. Patrick's High School student and Marywood alum, I have been immersed in the teachings of our faith. Through the IHM sisters and their mission of aiding those in need, educating all ethnic groups, and caring for the poorest of the poor, I along with my husband Mark, felt compelled to contribute to such a worthy group.

I can recall our group gathered together in the Curriculum Lab at Marywood which was right across from Sr. Carina's office. My friends and I were talking and laughing loudly. She came out of her office and reprimanded us. No sooner had she left, we were at it again. She returned, smiled at us and told us to leave! Of course, we obeyed. We were totally out of control and no matter how hard we tried to stifle our laughter, nothing worked.

Although she was advanced in age, to me Sister Carina seemed ageless. She genuinely loved teaching and was certainly entertaining. I appreciated her energy. She was a wonderful role model!

We all know that the sisters take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. It is important for us to contribute whatever we can to support them since we are the recipients of the knowledge they have imparted to us and the kindnesses they have shown to us when we were under their care.

We know that the sisters appreciate any gifts, no matter how large or small since it is more than they had to begin with. That is why Mark and I encourage others to donate to the sisters who sacrifice their time, effort, and energy to serve wherever there is a need. We remember the vow of poverty that the sisters obeyed and the sacrifices they made. How could we not support them? They gave so much - why can't we share just a little?

— Michele McDade



Remain in Our Love continues with special liturgies for locations where IHM sisters have ministered but are no longer present. Masses will be celebrated at the IHM Center chapel at 8 a.m. on the below dates for the following locations:

- February 26 Dioceses of Albany and Syracuse, NY
- March 25 Diocese of Scranton, PA
- April 22 Dioceses of Harrisburg, Altoona-Johnstown, Allentown, Pittsburgh, PA; Cleveland, OH; Grand Rapids, Detroit, MI
- May 27 Dioceses of Baltimore, MD; Washington, DC; Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN

Please check our website at <https://tinyurl.com/ronn4fq> for details including the ministry locations for which we will be praying. 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. All are welcome to attend or tune in via Ustream at www.ustream.tv/channel/ihm-tv.

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS



SPRING EVENING OF PRAYER SCHEDULE

Wednesdays - February 12, March 11, April 15, May 13
Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel at the IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton (top of University Avenue, just beyond Marywood's Campus)

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IHM CONGREGATION

rooted in history, focused on the future, united in fire.

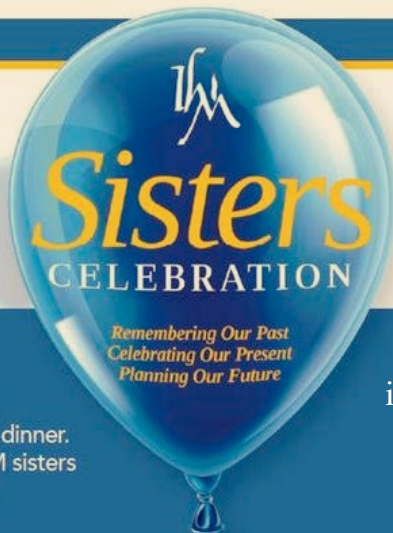


JUBILARIANS TO BE HONORED

Join with us in prayers of gratitude as we honor 18 Jubilarians for their 25, 50, 60, 70, and 75 years of service.

SISTERS OF IHM CELEBRATION

Gather with friends and supporters on August 1 as we continue this fundraising tradition.



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 1, 2020** to benefit the IHM Retirement Fund