The Drive in Peru

As the administrator of a rural parish in the Southern Andes, Sister Eileen Egan, IHM coordinates all aspects of parish life in Sicuani and in six outlying communities that are part of the Sicuani Prelature. In addition to administering the parish, Sister Eileen also runs a library and the IHM House of Studies, a modest boarding house that provides room and board to indigenous girls so that they can attend high school in Sicuani. This region is tremendously underdeveloped and mountainous and the unpaved and deteriorated roads make travel treacherous. In order to fulfill her outreach ministry and that of other IHM sisters in Peru, Sister Eileen needed a reliable, rugged vehicle that could maneuver mountain curves and impassable roads, especially during the rainy season, October to May, when mud and landslides are common. She formerly relied on a twenty-year old Toyota Land Cruiser with close to 200,000 miles that, after years of use, was in disrepair.

Thanks to the generosity of faithful donors, the dream of a new car in Peru was finally realized last fall with the purchase of a 2012 Toyota Rav4 from the Grupo Pana Toyota Dealership in Lima, Peru. A grant from the The Catholic Human Services Foundation (CHS), ongoing contributions from Gil and Esther Andaya, thoughtful parishioners from Saint Anastasia in New Jersey who submitted proceeds from their weekly dance lessons, and contributions from other faithful donors helped to offset the expense of the car. The new Rav4 helps to connect the IHM sisters with the natives of Peru as they transport supplies from town to the IHM House of Studies, haul food and clothing donations to the outlying villages, travel up to two hours by car to reach families to whom they minister, and transport the young women from the IHM House of Studies to various locations. Continued on page 4

“Thanks to the generous support from donors and the Catholic Human Services Foundation (CHS), this new 2012 Toyota Rav4 was purchased last year for Peru ministries. Pictured in front of the Rav4, from left: Sister Rosemary de Paul, IHM Philadelphia, Delfina Hualla - Director of the IHM House of Studies - and her daughter Maura Elena, Sister Eileen Egan, IHM, and Sister Ancilla Maloney, IHM.”
**IHM Sisters Honored**

IHM sisters Mary Pio Ferrario and Claire Marie Kulp were honored for their education ministry by Holy Redeemer High School during an Advent service. A total of six women religious on the school’s faculty and staff were honored and additionally recognized in a video presentation featuring the sisters.

**People & Places**

**IHM Honored with Master Catechist Award**

On September 16, 2012, Sister Kieran Williams, IHM was presented with the Master Catechist Award for the Diocese of Raleigh by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh. Sister Kieran is the pastoral administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in Williamston. This distinction further exemplifies her commitment to serving her community and to being a clear witness to the presence of God in this world.

**IHM's ESL Program Helps New Citizens**

Through the leadership of Sister Joan Thompson in her work with the ESL program (English as a Second Language), and all IHM sisters helping her with that program, an awareness and understanding of the English language is fostered in ESL students who are often adult immigrants. For ESL student Teolinda Baez this meant gaining the knowledge and support needed to take the necessary steps toward becoming a U.S citizen last fall.

**IHM Soldiers Project Recognized**

Sister Nancy DeCesare, IHM founded and continues to develop The Soldiers Project for the state of Pennsylvania. The program is growing in outreach in supporting veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their families. In recognition of Sister Nancy's efforts, and those that have helped to make this program possible, Sister Nancy was invited by U.S. Representative Allyson Schwartz (PA-13) to an event on November 30, 2012, where President Obama was present. Sister Nancy brought Sister Mary Higgins, IHM with her to the event and the IHM sisters briefly met President Barack Obama when he approached the crowd. With the ongoing efforts of Sister Nancy and others, The Soldiers Project will continue to reach out and address the needs of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their families.

**IHMs Lead Education Ministries in Africa**

Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM was an organizer and mentor of a group of college students that participated in a sixteen day service-learning trip to Bigwa Sisters Secondary School in Morogoro, Tanzania through ASEC (African Sisters Education Collaborative), which helps to educate sisters in Africa. Participants in the service-learning trip included students from the three ASEC institutions of higher education that collaborated on this initiative: Marywood University, Chestnut Hill College, and Rosemont College. As a charter member of ASEC, the IHM Congregation has helped educate sisters in Africa for more than 12 years. This was Sister Margaret’s fourth trip to Tanzania and her seventh trip to East Africa through ASEC. During this trip, Sister Margaret coached the sisters at Bigwa Sisters Secondary School in written English as all exams in Tanzania are only offered in English. This past November, two IHM sisters, Margaret Gannon and Kathleen Burns, taught an orientation course for 18 sisters in the first class of HESA, Higher Education for African Sisters, which is a new ASEC initiative to assist sisters in Africa in obtaining a bachelor’s degree. The IHM -led orientation course helped to prepare the sisters for their preliminary online courses to begin in the spring, which is required for their ultimate enrollment at Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) where they plan to complete their studies. Sister Margaret traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to teach the basics of writing an academic paper and introduce Moodle, the system through which the sister’s future online courses will be delivered. Sister Kathan teaches remotely from the United States, provided technical instruction as well as lessons on the basics of computer programs like Microsoft’s Word and PowerPoint. Sisters M argaret and Kathan maintain their relationships with HESA students as they remotely assist with their studies on a weekly basis.

**Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM instructs sisters in Africa at a conference center in Kenya through a new program called HESA, Higher Education for African Sisters.**

**Sister Kieran Williams, IHM is the pastoral administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in Williamston. Here, she poses with the Master Catechist Award for the Diocese of Raleigh. Pictured to the left of Sr. Kieran is Sister Rachel Terry, IHM and pictured to Sr. Kieran’s right are Bishop Michael Burbidge and Sister Rosemary Goulet, IHM.**

**Sister Nancy DeCesare, IHM founded and continues to develop The Soldiers Project for the state of Pennsylvania. The program is growing in outreach in supporting veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their families. In recognition of Sister Nancy’s efforts, and those that have helped to make this program possible, Sister Nancy was invited by U.S. Representative Allyson Schwartz (PA-13) to an event on November 30, 2012, where President Obama was present. Sister Nancy brought Sister Mary Higgins, IHM with her to the event and the IHM sisters briefly met President Barack Obama when he approached the crowd. With the ongoing efforts of Sister Nancy and others, The Soldiers Project will continue to reach out and address the needs of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their families.**

**Teolinda Baez, an ESL student, poses at left with congratulatory flowers after her October 26, 2012, ceremony to become a U.S citizen.**

**Sisters, staff, and students who participated in the service included, seated, from left: Sister Mary Pio Ferrario, IHM; Sister Immuncal’ Zdanowicz, OSM; Sister Claire Marie Kulp, IHM; Sister Mary Frances Conrad, RSM; Sister Ann Marie Kase, SCC; Sister Catherine Ann Morris, SSCM. Standing, from left: James McDermott; Father Joseph Elston; Anita Sirak; Ber Glennon; Eric Gdovin; Patrick McHale; Therese Roughsedge; and Andrew Mark.**
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

This issue of IHM Connection will certainly affirm all we speak of in our title, IHM Connection. The articles and photographs will walk you through some of the many activities of our sisters engaged in ministries of service and support. As you read our latest issue, you will see of our connection to you, our families, friends, associates, and supporters. Our service is celebrated as we highlight the accomplishments and commitment of our IHM sisters and lay people working in the mission of IHMs.

Our appreciation is always extended to the many support groups who help sustain us through acts of kindness and activities to be engaged with us. Our ministries of education and service are inspired, supported and sustained through the collaborative efforts of our sisters, friends, associates and donors. We also are reporting that we have reached our 2013 goal for Silver Circle! This program is a direct funding support for our dear retired sisters.

You will read of the hopes and dreams we have through Keys To The Future vocation activities, plans for our facilities, and new endeavors in the missionary work in Peru. So many exciting things are on the horizon for us all. Read on, join in, and walk with us!

Gratefully,

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM
Director of Development

IHM SISTERS CELEBRATE ST. ROSALIA’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

On November 24, Saint Rosalia Grade School and High School celebrated their 100th anniversary. IHM sisters and friends celebrated with the school, alumni association, and parish to commemorate the event. As one of the parishes in the Pittsburgh area with a thriving Catholic school, the celebration of St. Rosalia’s centennial was one of great triumph for the school’s continuing commitment and affirmation of the importance of Catholic education.

IHM sisters that are alumnae of St. Rosalia Elementary/High School or those who ministered there joined the celebration of dinner, dancing and reminiscent story telling. Guest speaker Michael Bartley, WQED TV host and school graduate, spoke about the dedication that permeates throughout the St. Rosalia community, mentioning the many good people who devoted their time to the institution over the past 100 years. He noted the influence of the teachers, staff, pastors, parents, coaches, alumni, and the “glaring dedication of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Michael, a deeply involved St. Rosalia parishioner, credits his involvement with his hometown parish to the IHM Sisters. “They taught us faith,” he says. “[The IHM Sisters] made an impact on thousands of kids,” Michael continued. In his great appreciation for the lessons he learned from the IHM sisters during his years at St. Rosalia, and the lessons he continues to learn from his ongoing involvement with them today, he acknowledges that, “Their faces are an indelible memory for me.”

In reflecting on the people represented at St. Rosalia’s anniversay celebration, both physically and in spirit, Michael acknowledges the success of the students from the school. Not only did he acknowledge his own personal career successes but also the successes of so many St. Rosalia students, many of whom have done so well.

With the ongoing support of the IHM community and the St. Rosalia parish community, there’s great hope that this amazing school will help to impact thousands more students in the future.

Gratefully,

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM
Director of Development

Michael Bartley, pictured on the right, stays in contact with Sister Delia Marie, IHM, pictured left.
THE CHARISM FINDS A NEW EXPRESSION

For a number of years lay people from all walks of life have been discovering the spirit of the IHM sisters through the associate program, which provides the means for individuals to explore and achieve a deeper experience of God through the IHM Associate Relationship. Sheryl Lynn Sochoka is a 1992 graduate of Marywood University and currently serves as Marywood University’s Publications Director and Editor of Marywood Magazine. Her acquired knowledge of the IHM Congregation over the years and her foundational understanding of the IHM mission and vision led her to the IHM Associate Relationship. She describes the process as “opening up yourself to learning about the IHM Charism.”

Sheryl Lynn’s journey is similar to that of each IHM Associate: participation in a pre-designed program involving Circles of Grace, groups of IHM sisters, associates, and aspiring associates. Sheryl Lynn recently explored the mutual relationship and connection generated through this program and acknowledged that, “becoming an IHM Associate is about relationship; it is an invitation, a universal call to intentional holiness.” Through the IHM Associate Relationship Sheryl Lynn acknowledged a deepening of her existing spirit. She plans to continue to keep her heart open to seeing needs and meeting them, and she plans to complete her associate process along with three others in her Circle of Grace.

Last summer, the IHM Congregation held its first associate conference, which Sheryl Lynn attended. She also attends events at the IHM Center when possible; this past December she attended an Advent day of reflection. IHM Associates and aspiring associates are encouraged to strengthen their relationships by participating in congregation events. On November 14, IHM Associates from various regions gathered to celebrate Founders’ Day where they joined in solidarity with the community in celebrating the “paths of daring and deeds of hope” of the founders, Theresa Maxis Duchemin and Louis Florent Gillet. Their commitment to the IHM Core Values and mission of Jesus leads them through their many works to a path of discovering God’s dream for all of creation.

Through the 150 current associates, the IHM Charism* today has been finding new expression in the way associates uniquely minister to their families, co-workers, and friends.

*IHM Charism— that unique gift of the spirit that impels IHM sisters to proclaim the good news of God's universal love for all. The Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (11th Ed.) describes Charism as “an extraordinary power given a Christian by the Holy Spirit for the good of the church.”

PERU Continued from Page 1

The new Rav4 will be used by Sister Eileen Egan, IHM, and newly assigned Sister Ancilla Malone, IHM. Before leaving her teaching ministry at Aquinas High School in Bronx, NY last year, Sister Ancilla was honored by the students and faculty for her service there. Sr. Ancilla carries with her many years of educational experience as she now ministers to the natives of Peru, using the new Rav4 to help complete her educational ministry there.

Sister Eileen acknowledged that one of the things the IHM sisters do with the new Rav4 is visit villages in the Andes mountains to prepare the people to receive the sacraments when the priest goes there for liturgy once a year. She would like to improve their catechesis to include visual aids, but the parish has only one large PC computer. In order to offer visual aids during lessons, she’s highlighted the need for a lap top, power point projector, and small digital camera to help with their ministry in the remote Andes.

The IHM sister’s drive and enthusiasm for their ministries in Peru is ever strong. With the ongoing support of loyal donors, the drive in Peru, both physically and spiritually, will continue to thrive.
SISTERS ENERGIZED TO SEEK NEW MEMBERS

The IHM Sisters recognize that a steady flow of vibrant new vocations is the key to the vitality and viability of the mission and ministry of any religious congregation. Therefore, the new IHM Vocation Team has engaged in activities to seek more creative ways to invite new members. Approximately one hundred thirty IHM sisters gathered in six geographic locations to participate in a full-day workshop called Keys to the Future: Moving Forward in Hope. The Keys workshop is a national effort sponsored by the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC). Through a generous grant from the GHR Foundation, NRVC developed and trained religious men and women from across the nation to facilitate the workshop for their respective religious communities. Sister Fran Fasolka, IHM, a member of the IHM Vocation Team, trained as a facilitator and brought the workshop to the IHM Vocation Team who adopted it and offered it in multiple locations throughout the congregation.

Vocations Director Sister Kathy Kurdziel, IHM, acknowledged that what excites her most right now, “is the sisters’ response to the Keys to the Future workshop and the many ideas they have generated for expanded vocation outreach.” Throughout the fall and winter, groups of IHM sisters engaged in lively conversation, sharing their own vocation stories, studying the research on persons currently entering religious life, examining the journey of the congregation through the years and making concrete suggestions about bold new steps in vocation recruitment for the future.

The Keys process, which urges the IHM sisters to be proactive about inviting new members, alerted the congregation to the necessity of being a more visible presence to the public. This new insight promoted more current posts on the IHM website and on social media such as the IHM Facebook page and prompted broader distribution of the new IHM brochures and the new IHM DVD. With this reinvigorated outlook, the IHM sisters are making a more concerted effort to be transparent about their prayer and community life and the extensive outreach of their ministries. A small circle of sisters in the DC/Maryland area quickly took their commitment to visibility seriously and set up two events at the IHM Convent in North Beach, Maryland situated right on the Chesapeake Bay. The events are collectively called Keys to the Future: Moving Forward in Hope. The Keys workshop is a national effort sponsored by the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC). Through a generous grant from the GHR Foundation, NRVC developed and trained religious men and women from across the nation to facilitate the workshop for their respective religious communities. Sister Fran Fasolka, IHM, a member of the IHM Vocation Team, trained as a facilitator and brought the workshop to the IHM Vocation Team who adopted it and offered it in multiple locations throughout the congregation. Each workshop participant was given an uncut key, which symbolizes her recommitment to cut a new key to open whatever doors they can, alone or with other sisters, to encourage suitable women to consider a vocation to religious life. Moving forward together, the IHM sisters are crafting new keys to open the congregation to a viable future of hope.

Our Congregation is on Facebook!
To keep up to date with our work, please visit us at www.facebook.com/sistersofihm.

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL FLOURISHES

Little Flower School in Bethesda, Maryland, recently celebrated its 60th Anniversary. On September 29, 2012, 60 years of Catholic Education and 60 years of faithful service of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were commemorated in a joyful celebration of liturgy and gala event. Nearly 500 people were in attendance and included IHM sisters, parishioners, school parents, old friends, former teachers, and graduates from the 1950s to the present. During the liturgical services Katie Ledecky, a 15-year old alumna and Olympic gold medalist in swimming, sang with the children’s choir.

At the conclusion of the Mass, all attendees joined in the newly renovated Little Flower Hall where Archbishop Wuerl blessed the hall and an IHM recognition plaque. The blessed plaque will be placed in the main entrance of the school as a sign of gratitude to the IHM sisters for their years of service at Little Flower School. The IHM sisters were thanked by all in attendance not only for their service at Little Flower but also for their service to the Church. With the continued support of the IHM community and Little Flower parish, the IHM sisters look forward to being an integral part of 60 more wonderful years of service and educational ministry to the citizens of Bethesda, Maryland.

IHM sisters Ellen Maroney and Rosemary Goulet pose with the new IHM recognition plaque to be placed in the main hall of the Little Flower School in gratitude for the IHMs’ years of service.
Marywood Seminary Supports IHM

The Marywood Seminary Alumnae Association celebrated the 110th Anniversary of the 1902 school founding with a Grand Reunion June 22-24, 2012, held at Marywood University. A check for $3,625.00 representing donations made to the IHM Congregation at the time of the reunion was presented to IHM President Sister Therese O’Rourke, IHM. Committees of the association are planning to host another annual Mardi Gras Entertainment Social for IHM sisters at OLP in February as well as the annual Liturgy/Luncheon at the Scranton Country Club in October. The IHM sisters are appreciative of the faithful support of the Alumnae Association.

Upcoming Kitchen Project
Food for Thought

The IHM Center is in the process of undergoing steps to upgrade the main kitchen. Updated equipment will be installed as well as the replacement of a large hood over cooking areas.

Legacy of Friendship

Catherine T. Feeney’s gift to the IHM sisters through her will enables the IHM Congregation to sustain its ministries and care of retired sisters. Catherine was a nurse who had received her bachelor’s of science and master’s of science in Nursing from St. John’s University in New York City. When she retired from nursing, she offered her services to the nursing school at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Catherine was a member of St. Mary’s Church in Avoca and grew up next door to St. Mary’s School. While honorably serving others throughout her life, Catherine befriended the IHM sisters. She loved her parish and the IHM sisters.

If you, like Catherine, would like to share the gift of your legacy with the IHM Sisters, please consider including 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.

Use this form to request information about including the IHM Sisters in your will or to let the sisters know that you already have remembered them in your will.

Remember the IHM Sisters in your will and set up your own legacy of friendship.

___ I already have remembered the IHM Sisters in my will.
___ I would like to include the IHM Sisters in my will. Please send me more information.

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
City: _________________________________________________________________
State: ___________________________ Zip+4 ___________________________

Return to: IHM Center Development Office
2300 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18509
Supportive School Receives Middle States Accreditation

The Epiphany School in Sayre, PA, under the leadership of Sister Kathleen K. Kelly, IHM received Middle States Accreditation for the period from December 1, 2012, to December 1, 2019. This vote of confidence in the school’s performance further exemplifies the school’s existing models of excellence which the IHMs have experienced firsthand.

The Epiphany School and pastor in the parish have generously distributed information to parishioners and school families each year to help support the congregation, specifically through the Silver Circle program, which directly supports retired IHM sisters. In addition, Sister Anne Quigley, IHM, a first-grade teacher at the Epiphany School, is one of the top sellers for the Silver Circle Program. This year she has secured nearly 300 memberships for the Silver Circle Program. Gratitude goes out to the Epiphany School and parish for all they do for their school and community.

Silver Circle Surpasses Goal

The hard work and ongoing efforts of Silver Circle sellers and the enthusiasm and commitment of all of the Silver Circle members has resulted in an overwhelming fact that the program has reached its goal 3 months ahead of schedule! This response to the program shows how strong IHM connections are with friends, relatives, and co-workers. The Silver Circle’s top number of sales was reached in the 2009-10 season, with a total of 7,372 tickets sold. What an inspiring number! Could this ever be topped? A special thanks goes out to the Silver Circle sellers and members of 2009-2010. Because of their spirit, the 2012-2013 Silver Circle sellers and members have a great example of what could be achieved with this program. This inspiration may result in a most successful membership year.

Become a Member of Our Silver Circle!

Yes! I would like to support the retired IHM Sisters.
Visit www.sistersofihm.org/silvercircle

Epiphany School principal Sister Kathleen Kelly, IHM (back left) and Father Andrew Hvozdovic, pastor (back right) pose with, front, from left: Eileen Janosko and Cheryl Ciottiti who are holding the Epiphany School Middle States Accreditation certificate.
TELL A YOUNG WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE ABOUT THE IHMS

IHM Presents Vocations at NJ School

IHM Vocations Director Sister Kathy Kurdziel, IHM presented on vocations at Holy Cross High School in Delran, NJ during their vocation day in late January. During her presentation, more than 300 young women explored with her the IHM vision, values, and mission. Sister Kathy fielded student questions and each young lady received a bookmark imprinted with a prayer to discern God's will for her life. A liturgy celebrating Catholic Schools Week concluded the vocation day.

Three Holy Cross High School students review vocations information with IHM sisters after a vocation presentation by Sister Kathy Kurdziel, IHM, Vocations Director in late January. From left: Kathleen Gurba (junior), Sister M. Monica Byrne, IHM, Mary Elizabeth White (freshman), Sister M. Claudette Naylor, IHM, Natasia Jacko (senior) and Sister Bernadette Thomas, IHM.

Photo courtesy of Miranda Nelson