



CONNECTION

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

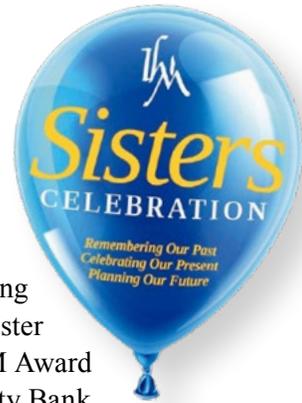
Fall 2023

Volume 31, No. 3

Scranton, Pennsylvania

YOUR GENEROSITY SHINES: A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM THE SISTERS OF IHM FOUNDATION

On behalf of the Sisters of IHM Foundation, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support during our annual IHM Sisters Celebration, held on August 5th. Your kindness and generosity have truly made an impact, and for that, we are beyond grateful.



This year, our virtual event was nothing short of inspiring. Hearing from Sister Kathryn Clauss, our IHM Congregation President, Sister Ann Monica Bubser, our Foundation President, our Spirit of IHM Award recipient, Ann Rink and Event Chair Daniel Santaniello of Fidelity Bank was an incredible reminder of the shared mission that binds us together - to support our retired sisters who have given so much of their lives in service of others.

We were thrilled to showcase the remarkable life missions of IHM Sisters Mary Rassley, M. Redempta Sweeney, and Maria Goretti Timperio. Their compelling stories of unwavering dedication, profound faith, and selfless service continue to inspire and move us all.

We want you to know that your donation is not just a gift, but an investment in our future. You have joined other supporters in making a significant impact, fostering hope, and inspiring change. This act of kindness demonstrates your commitment to our mission and vision. THANK YOU!



Sr. Mary Rassley, IHM



Sr. M. Redempta Sweeney, IHM



Sr. Maria Goretti Timperio, IHM

***Congratulations Sister
Rose DiFluri, IHM***

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Anyone who missed the program can view it on the Sisters of IHM Foundation YouTube Channel; search Sisters of IHM Celebration 2023. Gifts may still be sent to the sisters in the enclosed envelope or online at:

<https://ministryconnect.org/donate/gala-form.html>

DONATE HERE





CONNECTION

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

Fall 2023, Volume 31, No. 3

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

Suggestions and contributions are welcome.

Sister Kathryn Clauss, 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 and Supporters of the Sisters,

As the vibrant colors of autumn grace our surroundings and the air carries a gentle reminder of change, I find myself reflecting on the beauty of the past season and the incredible journey we continue to undertake as a community of IHM Sisters. It is with a heart filled with gratitude that I write to each one of you, our cherished donors and supporters, to express our deepest appreciation for your unwavering commitment to our mission and our dear Sisters.

The Fall has always been a time of transition, a season that invites us to embrace transformation and growth. In much the same way, your steadfast support has been a guiding light, illuminating our path as we navigate the evolving landscape of our work. Your generosity has allowed us to extend our outreach and touch the lives of countless individuals in need, offering solace, education, and hope to those who seek it most.

With each passing day, your contributions enable us to further the values that have guided the Sisters for generations - compassion, service, and love. Your dedication not only sustains our initiatives but also empowers us to dream bigger, to envision a world where all can experience the warmth of understanding and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

As we look back on the past months, we are humbled by the countless ways you've shown your support - through your donations, kind words, and shared experiences. You are an integral part of our story, an extension of our mission "to proclaim God's unconditional love for all". Your commitment resonates deeply with us, reaffirming that we are not alone in our efforts.

As the seasons transition and the leaves begin their graceful descent, please know that your impact remains evergreen in our hearts. We are inspired by your continued belief in our work, and we carry you and your generosity with us as we move forward.

With warmest regards,

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM
Director of Development



Special liturgies for ministry locations where IHM Sisters have served but are no longer present will be offered at the IHM Center chapel at 8 a.m. on the dates below.

We invite you to share any special intentions you may have for these masses with Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, at bubsera@sistersofihm.org or 570 346-5431. Visit our website at <http://www.sistersofihm.org/what-you-can-do/donations-support/remain-in-our-love-liturgyschedule-and-information> for a list of ministry locations for which we will pray.

DATES

October 25

November 22

December 27

January 24, 2024

MINISTRY LOCATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING DIOCESES

Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, Peru, Puerto Rico and Guatemala

Rockville Centre, NY

Diocese of Nelson, B.C.; Archdioceses of Los Angeles, CA, Boise ID, Spokane and Yakima, WA; Archdiocese of Portland, OR; Santa Rosa and Santa Fe, NM

Diocese of Brooklyn and Archdiocese of New York



SISTER ROSE DiFLURI, IHM RETIRES AFTER DECADES IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

For decades, the halls of Catholic schools resonated with the wisdom, dedication, and warm-heartedness of Sister Rose DiFluri, IHM. Her recent retirement from her role as assistant superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Camden marked the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy of passion and advocacy that had transformed countless lives.

Colleagues and friends alike fondly recalled Sr. DiFluri as a remarkable woman, a blend of gifted intelligence and compassionate soul. Her dedication to the cause of Catholic education was matched only by her quick wit and a humor that could light up any room. With a heart full of love for her students and a deep commitment to her faith, she had not just worked in Catholic education; she had breathed life into it.

One of her closest companions over the years was Sister Ruth Harkins, IHM. Their friendship had blossomed back in 1988 when they were stationed together at Bishop Grimes High School in Syracuse, NY. Sister Rose, held the position of principal, while Sister Ruth guided young minds as a social studies teacher.

The two might have come from different backgrounds, but they shared a common thread as IHM sisters – an unshakable devotion to the betterment of their students and the fostering of a strong, faith-driven educational environment. Sister Rose’s fierce advocacy for Catholic schools resonated deeply with Sister Ruth, and a friendship was forged that would withstand the tests of time.

Their days at Bishop Grimes were a tapestry of shared triumphs and challenges. Sister Rose’s leadership was characterized by her straightforward approach, blending guidance with a sprinkle of her trademark humor. Through turbulent times and joyous celebrations, the duo navigated the educational landscape together, leaving an indelible mark on the lives they touched.

Sister Rose’s leadership was instrumental in steering the school towards academic excellence, but it was her compassionate nature that truly set her apart. Students confided in her, seeking solace and guidance in her gentle presence. Many students found comfort in her open-door policy, knowing that behind that office door was not just a seasoned educator, but a caring friend who would listen and offer counsel without judgment.

As the years flowed on, Sister Rose’s influence expanded beyond the confines of Bishop Grimes. Her dedication caught the attention of the Diocese of Camden, where she assumed the role of assistant superintendent of Catholic Schools. Here, her advocacy for Catholic education reached new heights. She worked tirelessly, challenging the status quo, and championing the cause with an unwavering zeal.

Throughout it all, her friendship with Sister Ruth remained a steadfast beacon. Their bond was a testament to the power of shared dreams, mutual respect, and the unbreakable connections formed in the service of something greater than themselves.

As the news of Sister Rose’s retirement spread, accolades poured in, painting a picture of a woman whose legacy would continue to shape generations to come. Her journey had been one of dedication, resilience, and genuine care for others. It was a journey marked by laughter, shared purpose, and the unbreakable bond of friendship.

As Sister Rose stepped into the new chapter of her life, she carried with her not just memories of her years in education, but the countless lives she had touched and transformed. And by her side stood Sister Ruth, a friend for the ages, a reminder that the best of journeys is not traveled alone.



IHM Sisters Rose DiFluri and Ruth Harkins have been friends for more than 30 years.

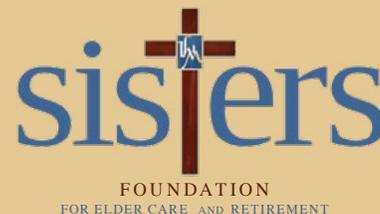
“Remember a wonderful teacher that you have had somewhere along the way in your life, someone who spoke the Word of God to you by his or her teaching, and give thanks to God for that person.”

Sister Rose DiFluri, IHM



Congratulations Sister Rose!

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ALL OF THE IHM SISTERS, WE THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF



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YEAR-END CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION ADVANTAGES

As the year draws to a close, it's a perfect time to reflect on the blessings we've received and consider how we can make a positive impact on the lives of others. Charitable giving is not only an act of kindness; it's an opportunity to create lasting change and leave a meaningful legacy. As you contemplate your end-of-year financial decisions, here are some key benefits of charitable giving to consider:

- 1. Tax Deductions:** Making charitable donations before the end of the year can often result in tax deductions. These deductions can reduce your taxable income, potentially leading to lower tax liability when you file your taxes. This can be especially advantageous if you're looking to optimize your financial situation and reduce your tax burden.
- 2. Fulfillment of Giving Goals:** Many of us set goals at the beginning of the year, and giving back to the community might have been one of those goals. By making a charitable donation before the year closes, you can achieve a sense of accomplishment and align your actions with your values.
- 3. Legacy and Values:** Charitable giving is a way to express your values and create a legacy that extends beyond your lifetime. Whether you're supporting causes that are close to your heart or addressing issues you're passionate about, your giving can shape the world in a way that reflects your beliefs.
- 4. Inspiration for Others:** When you openly support charitable causes, you inspire others to do the same. Your actions can motivate friends, family members, and colleagues to join in and give back, creating a ripple effect of positive change in the community.

As you consider your end-of-year financial decisions, remember that every contribution has the potential to make a positive difference. Whether you choose to donate to established nonprofits, local community initiatives, or global causes, your generosity matters. By leveraging the benefits of charitable giving, you can end the year on a meaningful note, knowing that your actions have the power to create positive change in the world.

For more information, visit www.sistersofihm.org, click on "Donate," then click on "Year End Giving". For any questions, contact: Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM at (570) 346-5431 or bubsera@sistersofihm.org



Plant the Seed
A few simple steps
today will give you
peace of mind tomorrow



October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month

Legacy of Friendship

“OUR BROTHER JOE”

In the heartwarming tapestry of life, Joe Banick's legacy shines as a testament to the enduring power of friendship, self-emptying service, and a deeply ingrained commitment to making a difference. Born as one of eight siblings, Joe's journey was one of humility, compassion, and an unyielding dedication to uplifting others.

An example of inspiration, Joe's calling led him to become an educator. With a love for numbers and a heart for guiding young minds, he embarked on a fulfilling career as a high school math teacher. He nurtured generations of students with his patient instruction and unwavering support. Remarkably, for 40 years, not a single teaching day was missed, a testament to his devotion to both his students and his profession.



Joe Banick

But Joe's impact extended far beyond the classroom walls. His heart was a refuge for those in need, and he lent his support generously to organizations that resonated with his values. At the IHM Educational Enrichment Institute, where he tutored, he shared his wisdom and time, nurturing minds outside of his classroom. His generosity and devotion graced both St. Francis Kitchen and Friends of the Poor, reflecting his embodiment of the IHM Spirit.

In the words of his sister, Sr. Dolores, IHM and his brother, Msgr. Tom, “Joe embodied qualities that radiated kindness. His humility was genuine, his hospitality boundless, and his heart overflowed with joy. A remarkable listener and a steadfast friend, he was ever ready to extend his helping hand to those in need, igniting smiles wherever he was present.”

Joe's Sundays were sacred in more than one way. His ongoing presence at the IHM Center Chapel, where he attended mass, offered by his brother, Msgr. Tom, reflected his profound faith and his deep connection to the IHM community. His affection for the IHM sisters was evident, and his love for them was palpable in every interaction. This love extended even beyond his lifetime, as he remembered the IHM's in his estate, a testament to his enduring commitment to their mission of joyful, loving, and hospitable service.

When Joe's earthly journey came to an end, his legacy found its culmination in a place he held dear. The IHM Chapel became a haven of solace and celebration, where his family, friends, and the community gathered to honor a life well-lived. His impact will resound through generations, shaping the lives of those he touched and inspiring them to continue his legacy of service and compassion.

In a world that often moves swiftly, Joe Banick's legacy stands as a reminder that the profound impact of friendship, kindness, and dedication can ripple through time, leaving a lasting mark on the hearts and souls of all who are fortunate enough to have crossed his path.



Sr. Dolores Banick, IHM and Msgr. Tom Banick

For more information on how to leave a legacy gift to the IHM Sisters, visit www.sistersofihm.org, click on “Donate,” then click on “Other Ways to Give Smarter”. For any questions, contact: Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM at (570) 346-5431 or bubsera@sistersofihm.org

Legal title and address are:
Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SILVER CIRCLE PROGRAM?

For \$25, you can help support the retired IHM sisters AND have a chance each month, from October through June to win \$50 to \$1,000! One ticket gives you 36 chances to win each month. That's THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR chances to win!! The first drawing is October 18, 2023. You can join the program at any time!

With each Silver Circle membership, a ticket with contact information is placed into the Silver Circle barrel for chances to win prizes at the monthly Silver Circle drawing. Drawings are held once a month from October to June and include a total of 324 prizes ranging from \$50 to \$1,000

For each membership ticket in the barrel, there are 36 chances to win at each drawing. This is possible because when a ticket is chosen as a winner for a prize, the ticket is placed right back into the barrel for inclusion in the remaining prizes that day.

Visit www.sistersofihm.org/silvercircle for more information, lists of winners and FAQ. You can also call us at 570-346-5431.

Join the “SILVER CIRCLE” today by filling out the form below!



Sr. Daniel Mary Heisey, IHM

Complete and mail this form to the

IHM Center Development Office, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509

Yes! I would like to support the retired IHM sisters!

I would like to buy _____ Silver Circle memberships at \$25 each. Make checks payable to Sisters of IHM.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

First and Last Name _____

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NURTURING FAITH THROUGH CREATIVE EDUCATION: A SISTER'S CLASSROOM VOCATION JOURNEY

Sister Elizabeth DeMerchant, IHM hails from the quaint town of Easton in Northern Maine, where her upbringing was rooted in a family deeply connected to their community. Her father, a potato farmer, and her mother, a home economics teacher, instilled in her the values of hard work and service. Growing up, she was a fervent participant in various activities such as sports, band, chorus, FFA, 4-H, and parish life.



Sr. Elizabeth DeMerchant, IHM and her brother, Storer

Following her high school graduation in 1984, Sr. Elizabeth pursued studies in home economics at the University of Maine at Farmington. She then embarked on a three-year teaching journey in Bingham, Maine. Seeking further education, she earned an MS and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, leading her to manage a test kitchen at Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex in Richmond, VA. However, the events of 9/11 prompted a change, calling her back to her roots in Maine. Here, she earned a master's degree in special education and taught grades 5 to 8 at Holbrook Middle School, all while residing on her family's apple orchard.

In 2015, Elizabeth entered the IHM community. As a candidate, she first ministered at the newly founded NativityMiguel School of Scranton. During her year as an apostolic novice, she transitioned into teaching in the individualized instruction program at All Saints Academy. Her dedication and skill led her to re-establish the same program at Holy Cross High School. Currently Sister Elizabeth teaches religion and moderates clubs and activities at All Saints Academy.

All Saints Academy, a STREAM school, integrates science, technology, religion, English, art, and math into its curriculum. Guided by her principal, Doreen Dougherty, Elizabeth was entrusted with teaching religion to grades 5 to 8. Emphasizing engagement, she designed hands-on projects, often using LEGO and K'nex, to explore the lives of religious figures known for their contributions to art and science. During the pandemic lockdown, she penned a STREAM project book to help teachers implement the new STREAM curriculum in religion.

Sr. Elizabeth's goal is to make religion class exciting and relevant. Recognizing the contemporary trend of people losing their faith she focuses on inspiring her students to strengthen their faith through expression in art and science. In her lessons, students research and write about famous priests, brothers, and sisters who were inventors or scientists. Her classroom proudly displays an "IHM Saints" bulletin board featuring vocation posters and prayer cards of the deceased sisters. Frequently, she invites IHM sisters as guest speakers to provide insights into religious life.

Throughout her lessons, Sister Elizabeth incorporates various forms of prayer, making each day unique for her students. Her dynamic approach aims to ensure that her students do not lose their faith as they grow older. Her mission is to present religious life as a viable option in their future. With dedication and creativity, she tackles the challenges of nurturing faith in a changing world.

For the liturgy in celebration of her final profession of vows, Sister Elizabeth ingeniously crafted out of LEGO, flowers for the chapel, each symbolizing her innovative and heartfelt approach to honoring the uniqueness of each child as she teaches about life and faith. Her story serves as an inspiring testament to the impact of dedication and creativity within the realm of Catholic education and faith.



November 28, 2023

**#GIVING
TUESDAY**



Support the mission of the IHM Sisters!