



# CONNECTION

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

Summer 2024

Volume 32, No. 2

Scranton, Pennsylvania

*Join us for the August 3rd Virtual IHM Sisters Celebration:*

## SUPPORT OUR RETIRED SISTERS

You've grown up under their teaching. You may have volunteered side-by-side with them. You've read the stories about their work here in the Northeast and as far away as Sicuani, Peru. You've learned how generations of Sisters have helped God's people since 1845. Now, those Sisters who have done so much for so many need YOUR help.



The IHM Foundation's annual event, supporting the retired Sisters, is happening on August 3, 2024, at 6 p.m. Our goal is to surpass last year's total and reach \$255,500. Catch the IHM Spirit, support this worthy cause and make a difference for the Sisters and all whom they have and continue to serve.

We are not only asking you to Catch the IHM Spirit, but also to honor it as we recognize this year's Honorary Chairperson John Cagnetti and our IHM Spirit Award recipient Dr. Lois Draina.



### JOHN T. COGNETTI, SIOR, CCI—*Honorary Chairperson*

Educated by IHM Sisters, John Cagnetti has remained strong in his commitment to reaching out and serving others. He recently retired as President and Broker of Record at Hinerfeld Realty Company. In addition to his many professional accomplishments, he has worked with the Greater Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Pocono Mountains, and Pittston chambers of commerce, was a founding member of the economic development organization Penn's Northeast, and has served in leadership roles with the Lackawanna Historical Society, the Architectural Heritage

Association of NEPA (which he helped found), and Meals on Wheels. He currently serves as a director of Fidelity Bank, and is a member of the Board of St. Francis Kitchen. The Sisters of IHM Foundation raises up John as a wonderful example of how to live the IHM Spirit!



### DR. LOIS DRAINIA—IHM Spirit Award Recipient

In describing the Sisters of IHM, 2024 IHM Spirit Award recipient Lois Draina explains, "This group of caring women, driven by the gospel, has made an amazing impact in Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond." That description also fits Dr. Draina herself, who retired as the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Marywood University in Scranton. Prior to that position, she served as the Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia. With over 20 years of Catholic School administrative experience, she

has had a major influence on Catholic education throughout her career in the areas of school boards, curriculum, and mentoring. She continues to do so. "The Sisters have been wonderful, compassionate leaders and colleagues, giving me many opportunities to serve." We invite all to join Lois and Catch the IHM Spirit!

*We need your help! The cost of care and living expenses for our retired Sisters are continuing to rise exponentially. A sponsorship from you, your company, or your organization will make a big difference. The form in this issue of Connection describes sponsorships and benefits. You can also donate online by going to [www.sistersofihm.org/sisterscelebration](http://www.sistersofihm.org/sisterscelebration). Thank you!*

*Why I Give by Lisa Moran*  
Page 2

*Congratulate Our  
2024 Jubilarians!*  
Page 3

*Reflecting the IHM Spirit*  
Page 4

*Be a Sponsor for the 2024  
IHM Sisters Celebration  
on August 3rd*  
Page 5

*Retired Sisters Spread the  
IHM Spirit*  
Page 6



## 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 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](mailto:armbrustl@sistersofihm.org) with your preferred email address.

### **Change of Address?**

Contact the Development Office at  
570 346-5431 or [armbrustl@sistersofihm.org](mailto:armbrustl@sistersofihm.org).

[www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org)



Please Recycle

*IHM Connection* is published by the Development Office of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the works and needs of the IHM Congregation.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



We often talk about catching the “IHM Spirit” — rejoicing and sharing in Jesus’ redemptive mission to spread the Good News of God’s love and recreate the face of the earth. When we live that Spirit, even small actions combined with prayer can produce a ripple effect that makes good things happen. It is truly humbling when we consider how many “ripples of good” our retired Sisters, the Sisters highlighted in this issue who are celebrating their Jubilee year, and the two individuals we are honoring at our 2024 Celebration have sent out into the world!

In this issue, we are asking you to support our 2024 IHM Sisters Celebration. The funds are to help the retired Sisters, although the truth is, IHM Sisters never really retire. Though they do not now get paid for their work, those Sisters are still living their mission and showing their IHM Spirit here and in the community. With less income coming in, more retired Sisters to serve, and expenses that are rising fast, you can see why we need your help!

In Matthew, Chapter 5 verse 16, we are told to “let your light shine before people.” We invite you to join us in doing this every day -- letting that IHM Spirit shine! Support the 2024 IHM Foundation’s Celebration event! Drop a congratulations note to those Sisters who are celebrating a remarkable milestone in their service to God’s people.

Please know that whether you have been contributing to our ministry for years, or you just joined us for the first time in prayer, the Sisters of IHM are grateful to you for your support and love.

Sincerely,

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM  
Director of Development

## WHY I GIVE: A DONOR'S STORY

*By Lisa Moran*



I strive to teach my children the importance of a strong commitment to faith and to helping others. It is something I learned from my mother and my aunt, and it is something I see in the IHM Sisters. They are such wonderful examples — tirelessly serving our community and all of God’s people.

The Bible teaches us to:

“love one another” John 15:12

“Serve one another” Galatians 5:13

“Be kind and compassionate to one another” Ephesians 4:12

Working to help support the needs of the retired Sisters really means a lot to me. I want to lead by example, and that is exactly what the IHM Sisters do. As an active member of Saint Paul’s Parish,

I strive to exemplify the word of God in every aspect of my life — family, faith, and service. As a mother of nine children, our strong family values are built on our faith in God. It is my belief that being rooted in faith equips and empowers each of us. We do not walk alone.

I consider my ability to help the Sisters a privilege. Recently they asked me to serve on the IHM Foundation Board. I consider it an honor to play a larger role in striving to better the lives of Sisters who have given so much to so very many. As this year’s IHM Sisters Celebration draws near, I encourage all of you to do the same.



# Congratulations TO OUR 2024 JUBILARIANS!

## 80 YEARS

Sister M. Melissa Hester

## 75 YEARS

Sister Catherine Anne Mullaly

Sister Mary Newett

## 70 YEARS

Sister Joan M. Bastress

Sister M. de Montfort Babb

Sister M. Alphonsa Concilio

Sister M. Annellen Kelly

Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC

## 60 YEARS

Sister Beatrice Caulson

Sister Marylin Grosselfinger

Sister Madonna Marie Lenikus

Sister Anne Munley

Sister Agnes Panik

Sister Richard Mary Peters

Sister Mary Reap

## 50 YEARS

Sister Kathleen Burns

Sister Sandra Grieco

We invite you to join us in prayers of thanks and celebration for our 2024 Jubilarians. Your support has meant so much to each one as they work in education, parish and pastoral ministries, hospitals, food pantries, caring for children and adults, and so much more!

If you know one of the Sisters and would like to provide a gift in honor of her Jubilee, please visit [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org) and click the donate button or send your gift to the IHM Development Office, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509-1514. Please print the Sister's name on the check memo line.

*Thank you for reaching out  
and touching the lives of others  
with the love of the Lord.*



Sister M. Melissa  
Hester



Sister Catherine Anne  
Mullaly



Sister Mary  
Newett



Sister Joan M.  
Bastress



Sister M. de Montfort  
Babb



Sister M. Alphonsa  
Concilio



Sister M. Annellen  
Kelly



Sister Margaret  
Petcavage, SSC



Sister Beatrice  
Caulson



Sister Marylin  
Grosselfinger



Sister Madonna Marie  
Lenikus



Sister Anne  
Munley



Sister Agnes  
Panik



Sister Richard Mary  
Peters



Sister Mary  
Reap



Sister Kathleen  
Burns



Sister Sandra  
Grieco

# WINDOW REFLECTS THE IHM SPIRIT AND IMPACT

We recently received a beautiful email and photo from Brother Hank Hammer, a leadership team member for the Marist Brothers. Their Provincial house and office are housed in the former IHM convent at Our Lady of Mercy in Forest Hills, New York. As Brother Hammer writes:

*“Our former provincial, Brother Patrick McNamara (Laurel Hill Academy, Class of 1969) moved our provincial office here nine years ago. Brother Patrick is now the director of our General House in Rome. Still, another community member Brother Don (Edward) Neary is an IHM alum, having had the Sisters at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Jermyn, PA (Class of 1960) and St. Rose High School in Carbondale, PA (Class of 1964).*

*“Our chapel here in the convent at Our Lady of Mercy has an IHM logo on the chapel windows. I am attaching a photo of it to this email. Please be assured that we do and will remember the IHM Sisters. Both Patrick and Don attribute their attraction to the religious life to the IHM Sisters... We are grateful to the women religious whose witness served as a model and pathway for our own vocations.”*



Through the IHM Remain in our Love program, monthly special liturgies are held for ministry locations where IHM Sisters have served but are no longer present. These liturgies are 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](mailto:bubsera@sistersofihm.org) or 570-346-5431.

For a full list of the ministry locations that we pray for, go to [www.sistersofihm.org](http://www.sistersofihm.org). Simply click on the “What You Can Do” tab, “Donations and Support” and then “Remain in our Love.”

## DATES

**June 25, 2024**

**July 24, 2024**

**August 28, 2024**

**September 25, 2024**

**October 23, 2024**

## MINISTRY LOCATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING DIOCESES:

Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware; Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky; Diocese of Wheeling-Charlestown, West Virginia; and Diocese of Arlington, Virginia

Dioceses of Providence, RI; Boston, Springfield, & Worcester, MA; and Bridgeport, Norwich, & Hartford, CT

Dioceses of Camden, Paterson, Metuchen, Trenton, and Newark, NJ; and Philadelphia, PA

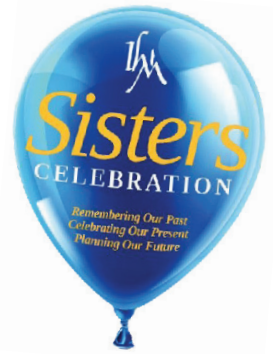
Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh, NC

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





## BE A SPONSOR for the August 3, 2024 IHM SISTERS VIRTUAL CELEBRATION:



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gift is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

(Write additional names on back if needed) The Honorary Chairperson is John Cognetti. This year's Spirit of IHM honoree is Dr. Lois Draina. Many people also honor Sisters, family members, etc.

Did someone ask you to make this donation? Who? \_\_\_\_\_

**DONOR NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR IN PROGRAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Anonymous**

*Donations made to The IHM Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, may reduce your taxable income.*

SPONSOR LEVELS	SPONSOR BENEFITS—2024 IHM Sisters Virtual Celebration
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Diamond</b> \$10,000+	IHM Spirit Profile for your organization or for a Sister or volunteer of your choice, you or your organization will be remembered in the prayers of the Sisters on their IHM Feast Day — December 8th — and you will receive a special gift from the Sisters, email acknowledgement sent to over 5,000 IHM friends, name recognition during the program, recognition in <i>IHM Connection</i> newsletter, social media recognition, and IHM website recognition.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Platinum</b> \$5,000 – \$9,999	Email acknowledgement sent to over 5,000 IHM friends, name recognition during the program, you or your organization will be remembered in the prayers of the Sisters on their IHM Feast Day — December 8th — and you will receive a special gift from the Sisters, recognition in <i>IHM Connection</i> Newsletter, social media recognition, and IHM website recognition.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold</b> \$1,000 – \$4,999	Name recognition during the program, recognition in <i>IHM Connection</i> newsletter, social media recognition, and IHM website recognition.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Silver</b> \$500–\$999	Recognition in <i>IHM Connection</i> newsletter, social media, and the IHM website.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bronze</b> \$100–\$499	Social media recognition and IHM website recognition.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Emerald</b> \$25–\$99	IHM website recognition.

**Sponsorship Level/Donation Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

Donations must be received by **July 19, 2024** to receive the sponsor benefits.

☐ Enclosed is a check made payable to: Sisters of IHM Foundation

☐ Charge the following credit/debit card:

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to help decrease expenses by paying for the credit card fee.

**Return this form** with your donation in the enclosed, pre-addressed envelope to:

Sister Ann Monica Bubser, IHM, IHM Center, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509-1514

**Thank you for your support in raising important funds for the retirement needs of the IHM Sisters.**



# OUR RETIRED SISTERS: SPREADING THE IHM SPIRIT

Our IHM Sister never truly retire. We use the term “retired” when they no longer minister at specific sites. However, they continue to live the “IHM Spirit” with unwavering dedication. Today, the number of Sisters who are retired and need assistance is growing significantly, and the costs are skyrocketing. The best plans and budgets could not have foreseen today’s circumstances. That is why we need your help.



For **Sister Mary Pio Ferrario**, the road to becoming an IHM Sister was as clear as the math equations she taught for many years. Growing up attending Catholic schools in Scranton, she found that the kindness of her Sister/teachers, the way they helped and mentored their students, and a special calling from God led her to become an IHM Sister. She began teaching, and as she

taught different math classes, she kept her traveling shoes on! She taught at St. Ann’s on Scranton’s West Side. She taught high school in New Bern, North Carolina, La Plata, Maryland, St. John’s in Pittston, and at Bishop Hoban (now Holy Redeemer) in Wilkes-Barre. She even tutored on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii for ten summers.

Her greatest joy is to see how far her students have come, and what they have done with their lives. Quite a few are teachers – and one even taught side-by-side with Sister. One is studying to become a priest, one conducts the Scranton Choral Society in her free time, another is a foot doctor, and so on. She states, “I am proud of playing a small part in helping them reach success in their lives.”



*Sister Mary Pio, fourth from the left, with family and friends at the Sisters of IHM Foundation Dinner.*

Through her kindness and gentle guidance, she has spread the IHM Spirit to many people, and she continues to do so. She crochets the most beautiful baby blankets for the IHM Heartworks Gift Shop and upon request. While going for the dialysis treatment she now receives three times a week, she still prays for her students and the positive impact their lives have on our region and our world.



**Sister Anne Mary Boslett** felt a calling to join the IHM Sisters when she was very young, attending Catholic grade school in Spangler, Pennsylvania. She went on to a public high school and, after graduation, an office job with the Peale, Peacock, and Kerr mining company. However, she soon found her way back to the IHM Sisters.

Once she joined the IHM Community, she became a teacher. Like Sr. Mary Pio, Sister Anne Mary also traveled quite a bit. At first, it was just down the road to teach grade school in Sugar Notch. Her teaching ministry then brought her to Nyack, New York, Hastings, Pennsylvania, Indian Head, Maryland, and Bridgeport, Connecticut.

She is most proud of teaching the children about prayerful meditation. She states, “They didn’t know anything about it, or how to do it.” Under her leadership, they learned the importance of prayer, asked for prayerful meditation times, and incorporated the practice into their lives.

Later, Sister studied to be a spiritual director in Canada, and then returned to Pennsylvania – moving to Cresco in the Poconos to lead the IHM Sisters’ Retreat House. There, she continued to help people looking for spiritual guidance. As she describes, “We never told them what to do. We listened and helped them find their own solutions.”

Throughout her life in ministry and community, Sister expressed her belief that she shouldn’t ask others to do something she wouldn’t do herself. Even as she eased into retirement, she still worked for a local company reaching out to senior citizens who were alone and isolated.

Although these Sisters are no longer able to be in full-time ministry, both continue to live the IHM Spirit – praying for all of God’s people and showing kindness in everything they do.

Learn more about our retired IHM Sisters during the August 3rd Virtual Sisters Celebration. Help and support are needed to care for those who touched the lives of so many. You can help by becoming a sponsor. Just fill out the form in this issue and send it back. It’s that simple.



*Sister Anne Mary focuses on listening when working with others.*