

IHM SISTERS – *On Mission*

IHM Statement of Solidarity during Pandemic

Trusting in God's Providence and with hearts full of creative hope,
we stand with the human family in this time of stress and uncertainty.

As the religious family of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

we hold in prayer those infected with the coronavirus
and especially the fatal victims and their families.

We prayerfully support the medical professionals
who are giving their skilled care and compassion.

We pray for the guidance of those in positions of governance
who are working to achieve a return to health and well-being
for the people they have been called to serve.

Throughout these trying times, we stir ourselves to act with creative hope
and compassion on behalf of those most in need.

We pray that the God of boundless love is acting on our behalf
and that this pandemic will soon recede from our common home
so that we may live together in peace, safety, good health and well-being.

Our mission: to evangelize, to catechize, and to teach

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
MALVERN, PENNSYLVANIA



Mission Statement

*Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
of Immaculata, Pennsylvania,
proclaim the Gospel message
in the spirit of
Jesus the Redeemer.*

*Strengthened by a life of
vowed consecration,
nurtured by prayer and
the Eucharist,
and sustained by
community living,
we radiate joyful service and
promote Gospel values,
offering compassion
to all God's people through
our mission
to evangelize,
to catechize,
and to teach.*

“Now more than ever you can be generous toward each day.” These words, written by Wendell Berry, were part of a reflection that the IHMs received as they prayed weekly in solidarity with religious women throughout the United States.

This contemplative response during the COVID-19 pandemic has given us an opportunity to step back and rediscover the importance of the relationships in our lives. Our first responders, healthcare workers, and other essential personnel have inspired us to see the best in all of us.

In addition to highlighting the work of our sisters, this issue of *On Mission* also introduces the first recipients of the Fideli Corde (Faithful Heart) Award. This recognition, conceived before the pandemic, takes on a renewed and more powerful meaning as we internalize to a deeper level the importance of the connections that exist among us. Initiated in conjunction with the celebration of the IHM 175th Anniversary, this award highlights lay colleagues who exemplify the Charism graces of the Congregation. So many of our friends and benefactors replicate the stories of these awardees. We know that the IHM mission of offering compassion to all God's people derives its strength from those who partner with us.

Our IHM Conference/Retreat Center offers the perfect setting for those who seek a place to come apart and be renewed. The hospitality shown to the Center's guests and the opportunities for quiet and shared reflection offer the ideal space to experience a moment of peace and solitude, so necessary in our world today. It is a place to feel at home with oneself and the God within.

Within these pages, you will meet Sister Amanda Russell, one of our younger members, a number of our sister wisdom figures from Camilla Hall, and Sister Barbara Montague who falls somewhere in between. You will see that no matter what the age, these sisters radiate the joyful service that a sense of mission engenders. It is that sense of mission we celebrate during this Anniversary year.

Wendell Berry sums it up best as he closes his reflection: “Every day you have less reason not to give yourself away.” The pandemic has shown us what truly matters. Our life in service to one another has been an IHM hallmark for 175 years. The gift of the relationships fostered throughout these years has intensified and extended our ability to offer the boundless love of our God to so many.

Enjoy the stories within these pages. May we continue together to be generous to each day and give ourselves away.

Many blessings,

Sister Mary Ellen Tennity, General Superior

Take the Word of God with you

As You Go

Only hearts which are fully open to the action of grace are able to interpret the signs of the times and to understand the pleas of a humanity in need of hope and peace . . . and our smallness is precisely the seed, a tiny seed, which will sprout, and grow. The Lord waters it, and in this way it grows. But the feeling of being small is really the first step towards trusting in God's power. Go; go forward along this path."

Pope Francis

*Sister Marie Horstmann is
Director of Literacy Initiatives
for the IHM Congregation.*



As we hesitantly, and somewhat fearfully, approach the summer days in the darkness and shadows of the coronavirus, we pause to reflect on the merciful greatness of our God who has shown us hope and human goodness in the face of challenging realities and the obstacles evolving from them. I venture to say these months have brought us humbly to recognize, like the prophets of Old and New Testaments, that God is in control, and our challenge is to en flesh our baptismal call to be priest, prophet and king as we strive to deal with the consequences of COVID-19 and journey onward announcing the Good News...Jesus lives!

BE PRIEST – mediate for the community with the Father, leading in prayer, offering sacrifices and reaching out with open arms and inclusivity to help those who strive to come to grips with deep losses during these harrowing, never-before lived moments.

BE PROPHET – live fully while waiting, not always patiently; listen even if not truly understanding; serve and walk with God's people, families, friends, parish communities; proclaim the truth and seek solutions while announcing God's presence in the world; support those who suffer emotionally, psychologically, and physically from isolation, uncertainty and insecurity; celebrate the genuine selflessness of health professionals, first responders, supermarket workers, trash collectors, and so many more unsung heroes, each one enfleshing his/her baptismal invitation to love.

BE KING – serve by looking out for the well-being of those who share our "kingdom," decide to stay home, call those in need, give food to the hungry and unemployed, support those without jobs.

Truly we have experienced "the feeling of being small," while trusting in God's power to bring about growth, goodness, even greatness. Our world has definitely changed, but the legacy of God's grace goes on and we are part of that legacy! Together we can and will make the future better. Together we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord! FUTURE, HERE WE ARE! FUTURE, HERE WE COME!

*"I love the beauty and peacefulness of the Center.
A perfect place to come away and reflect.
I love the time for quiet reflection.
It's good to be reminded how much God loves me.
The topic was sensational and the presenter fantastic.
Interesting, informative, and enlightening.
I'm grateful for the grace-filled day.
The facilities and grounds are so beautiful.
Touches my soul.
I've found peace and comfort here.
The warm hospitality of the staff
and the attention to all the details are so
welcoming. It is a joy to come to the Center.
There are so many opportunities here.
There seems to be something for everyone.
I never knew this place was here!
Coming to the Center is a little piece of heaven.
The presentation was so meaningful for my daily life."*

Visitor Comments



After more than 100 years of elementary school boys boarding at St. Aloysius Academy in West Chester and then at Bryn Mawr, PA, a change came in 1997. With fewer boys boarding (mostly from Mexico) and fewer sisters able to attend to teaching school and taking care of them after school and on weekends, it was decided to use the beautiful Wootten Estate as a day retreat center for school faculties and parish personnel. Sister Marie Angela Natoli, Superior General

at the time, listened to the future plans and in her thoughtful, considerate way simply said, "We will try it for three years." Then and there, the IHM Conference/Retreat Center "sprouted up" and opened its doors to the first faculty retreat in September 1997. Now 23 years later (well past the three-year trial period), it is still offering faculty retreats but has spread its wings to accommodate a variety of age groups and varied spiritual enrichment programs.

GROWING IN FAITH

"Because our focus is on day programs," says Sister Beth Woodward, "we tend to welcome an older generation of people who come for a day of refreshment, faith support and nourishment for their spiritual life." "Those in their mature years often come to grow or "mature" in their faith," adds Sister Marie Gipprieh, Director of the Center. "They know the rituals of rosary, Mass, and novenas from their youth, but long to go a little deeper into



IHM Conference/Retreat Center where our home is your home

Scripture and plumb the depths of their own faith. They are truly at their second stage of spirituality.”

The Conference/Retreat Center is a place with heart – warm and welcoming! In all sincerity Sister Catherine Kaporch says, “people feel at home, listened to and heard. It is a place where hospitality shines.”

MEETING NEEDS

Besides faculty retreats, the Center has expanded its offerings to include Pre-Cana programs on

weekends, Confirmation retreats, Archdiocesan retreat/workshop days, and special events planned by the Center staff which include seasonal prayer days, “movies with meaning” days, Taize prayer, time for getting acquainted with the saints and general conferences for personal enrichment.

Of all the many opportunities, the most popular by far are Caroling at the Mansion during the Christmas season and the Irish Afternoon Tea at the Mansion which has become an annual fundraiser for charity.

“People feel at home, listened to and heard. It is a place where hospitality shines.”



The annual Carol Night draws a big crowd. Bell choir, carols, and procession through the mansion draws everyone into the heart of the Christmas season.

Local places in need such as Mercy House, Dawn’s Place, the Family Literacy Center, and St. Agnes Day Room have all benefited from the generous donations graciously given over an afternoon of tea.

VOLUNTEERS – YES!

The Center has its “regulars” – those who have formed a community among themselves.

From these friendships a faithful volunteer group has emerged. With twenty or more volunteers willing and able, they rotate throughout the days and weeks lending a hand at welcoming new visitors, setting out meals, and making sure no one feels alone or on the margins. This group’s service is not only necessary but invaluable to help maintain the hospitality that is a hallmark of the Center’s ministry. Working on a shoestring has its challenges but ends are met because the sisters clean, cook and serve while relying on the volunteers to lighten the load.

Alice, one of many volunteers, speaks for the group, “It has been eight years since I was invited to be a volunteer at the IHM Conference

Center. It has been my pleasure to assist with luncheon preparations for many of the groups. Christmas preparations are always a fun time. Usually about 10+ volunteers gather to create a festive atmosphere throughout the mansion and the staff

Sister Marie Gipprich, Director of the IHM Conference/Retreat Center, provides a day of reflection for an attentive group of men.



Volunteers make the day flow smoothly. They do it all – from greeting guests to doing dishes.





Irish Afternoon Tea at the Mansion is a most popular event. Sister Beth Woodward showcases a sweet attraction.

If you would like to share space with the sisters and schedule a day for yourself, for a group, or to receive a brochure or monthly e-newsletter, contact Sister Marie Gipprich using the information below.

never fail to provide refreshments. The sisters always express their appreciation for our efforts, but in all honesty, we receive more in the loving friendship, hospitality, joy and peace that abound at the Conference Center.”

SHARING SPACE

One of the unique features of the Center is that it is the convent home

not only for all the sisters who staff the Center but also for those who minister at St. Aloysius Academy located on the same grounds. Sacred space is willingly and happily shared by all: the chapel, dining room, kitchen, great hall and mezzanine area on the second floor.

Sister Marie Gipprich, IHM

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Helping to make all retreats special are the IHM sisters who share their home graciously: (top l to r) S. Catherine Kaporch, S. Rita Marotta, S. Maureen Christi Van Winkle, S. Janice Urbanec. (bottom l to r) S. Beth Woodward, S. Marie Gipprich, and S. Louise Goeller.



In the Spotlight

*Our sisters on mission –
a little background, the promptings of grace, and the spirit that keeps them moving*

Sister Barbara Ann Montague

Religious Enrichment Teacher
St. Norbert School, Paoli, PA

Leaving full time teaching or administration often fills an IHM sister with a little anxiety. How can she continue to utilize her teaching talent and skill to bring the Gospel message to students again? There is a way – a much needed way to keep the light of Christ burning in the hearts of the young – it is called religious enrichment!

In many of our IHM schools, there is a sister who “travels” from grade to grade once a week instructing students about the lives of the saints, the liturgical seasons, and the many devotional practices that may have been lost over time such as the rosary, novenas, praying when an ambulance or fire truck sounds the alarm, and private heartfelt prayer.

GOING WHERE WE’VE NEVER GONE BEFORE

No, we are not going into outer space, but into a school where IHMs have never set foot before.

Enter Sister Barbara. Barbara was welcomed with open arms the minute she crossed the threshold. “There has not been a religious sister at St. Norbert School since the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart left 27 years ago. Many of the students have never encountered a religious sister,” she says. “I have the opportunity to share our IHM charism with them and the parents are thrilled to have a sister teaching their children.”

Originally from Hazelton, PA, Barbara met the IHMs in 5th grade at St. Joseph’s in Collingdale and then at Archbishop Prendergast HS. “Their good example and caring spirit touched my heart and I knew I wanted to follow in their footsteps.” Since entering the Congregation, Barbara has spent most of her teaching (16 years) and administrative career (34 years) in the Philadelphia area.



Sister Barbara brings a kindergarten lesson to life with song and motion. There is energy to be channeled into love of Jesus, Mary, and the saints.



Sister Barbara has her sixth graders count on their fingers the ways to be grateful and the many people for whom they can pray. Dim lights and a lighted candle provide a prayerful atmosphere.

Sister Barbara has fond memories of her educational experiences. “I have found teaching and being a school administrator very rewarding over the past 50 years. Watching students learn and grow to be their best selves is a joy money can’t buy. As an administrator, I felt I was a servant leader who partnered with parents in educating their children. God’s grace helped me meet the many challenges in school throughout the years.”

ONCE A TEACHER...

“As a religious enrichment teacher,” Sister Barbara explains, “I plan and teach lessons that supplement the religion curriculum in grades K to 8. It is an opportunity to teach the traditions of our faith to the students. In each class there is a student who is the special prayer person for the day. It is touching to see how they pray for the needs of the Church and their families. I love what I do because I feel I am

touching the students’ hearts. They touch my heart by their goodness.”

“Sister Barbara is joyful, definitely humble and always kind. She inspires us all. Having Sister in our building is a blessing.”

According to Mrs. Mary Riisen, 7th & 8th grade English and Latin teacher, “Sister Barbara carries the light of Christ into our classrooms. She is most of all joyful, definitely humble and always kind.... We are so lucky and delighted to welcome her to St. Norbert School.” Mary

Cris Guerin, Spanish Teacher, is just as enthusiastic, “Sister Barbara embodies what she teaches. We are so grateful to have her.”

LIFE BEYOND SCHOOL

Sister Barbara has kept up her energy level having participated in Zumba classes at the local gym for about ten years. To balance that out, she becomes a little bit of a “couch potato” watching the Eagles during football season. Although she doesn’t read music, her creative side emerges when she plays the guitar.

IT BOILS DOWN TO THIS

Last but not least, when asked what advice she would give to others, it is simple but profound, “You never know what people are carrying in their hearts, so always treat them with kindness and mercy!”



Mary Cris Guerin, Spanish Teacher, loves to ask her students what they learned in Sister’s class. Students always get the message.

Sister Amanda Marie Russell

Seventh and Eighth-Grade Teacher
St. Ephrem School, Bensalem, PA



No classroom revolution -- simply a visit to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

“I love to hike.

I love to bake and cook.

I love to dance.

I love to teach math.

I love to paint.”

Loving all of the above, Sister Amanda has no problem filling her days and weekends with activities that enhance her teaching or bring joy to her students and to the sisters with whom she lives.

St. Ephrem Parish/School has been home to Sister Amanda for

the last three years. As a newly-professed sister, she has used every talent to enhance her 7th and 8th grade math and religion classes. Graduating from Messiah College with a degree in German (which she speaks fluently) and K-12 teaching certification, Amanda was sure that would be the subject of choice. But with a minor in mathematics, the Congregation encouraged her to complete her math education and, with a certain reluctance, she did. Having taught math during her formation years and now with three years “under her belt” of teaching it to middle-school students, she has renewed

her love of numbers. “I soon realized that I am actually a really good math teacher,” she concedes, “and I have a natural gift for being able to communicate the concepts to students. It is now a real passion of mine and I would love to remain with middle schoolers for a while.”

ABOVE AND BEYOND

With a super abundance of talent, energy, and enthusiasm, Sister Amanda makes time to work with the parish teen group – a new initiative for her this year. “As spiritual leader, I work with a board of awesome women who help me execute weekly meetings,” she says.

“Twice a month we have scripture study based on a certain theme with games and fellowship. Once a month there is Praise and Pancakes. This is a time of fellowship followed by an hour of adoration with praise and worship music. On the last Sunday of the month, we celebrate a Teen Mass that is led by them with adult guidance for incorporating contemporary music and other creative experiences. Although this keeps me quite busy, I find time to cantor at Masses, attend as many athletic games as I can, and go to musicals and dance recitals when invited. Students always need help – that’s where tutoring after school comes in. No matter what I do on a daily basis, love is the greatest part of my ministry. I get to love the people I encounter and lead them to the God of Boundless Love. There is absolutely nothing better.”

SOME AMAZING WOMEN

Sister Amanda acknowledges that there are many people who have influenced her life. But number one would be her mom. “I am blessed with a wonderful, amazing, supportive, compassionate, dedicated mom. My mom brings a spirit of endless dedication to her passions and never thinks anything



of the time she pours into others. She always told me never to expect or demand a thank you. Her faith accompanied my journey into religious life. I knew I was never doing it alone.” Her smile widens when she says, “What a gift!”

“I will never forget my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Mullen. One day in math class we were playing *Around the World* practicing our times tables. Mrs. Mullen looked at me and said, ‘Amanda, I think you would make a really great teacher!’ She just smiled at me and I smiled back,” she remembers. “My desire to be a teacher was solidified then and there. It may sound crazy but it never wavered. I am grateful to all my teachers who shaped and molded me every year!”

“Last but not least, my ballet teacher. Miss Amy taught me from age seven through high school. I wasn’t the best ballerina but I loved ballet and still do. Miss Amy made me feel capable. When I

“No matter what I do... love is the greatest part of my ministry.”

auditioned for the Nutcracker, I was given the Russian solo. I trained so hard and even though my dance was only 58 seconds, it was filled with jumps and turns. Before I went on stage, Miss Amy put her arm around me and said, ‘You can do this and if you fall, I will come and pick you up.’ I am forever grateful for her support in my life.”

TAKE THIS TO HEART

Sister Amanda’s words of wisdom for all: “Stop overthinking; don’t worry about what others think of you; LOVE others in the way you know how, because in all its mystery and depth, LOVE is the heart of your calling in Christ Jesus.”



During the pandemic, Sister Amanda, like so many other teachers, spent hours preparing lessons for her students via zoom and other social media platforms.

Powerhouse Presence

CAMILLA HALL TUTORING PROGRAM

A Rewarding Investment

Just as cowboys want to die with their boots on, some Camilla residents want to retire with a textbook in hand and a student in front of them. The Camilla Hall Tutoring Program is the answer to their wish!

PROGRAM ESSENTIALS

The Tutoring Program operates during school terms and in the summer. At different times, 10-12 sisters may be tutoring 15 to 20 elementary, junior high or high school students usually once a week. Occasionally, a sister helps a college student or adult with a specific task or goal. Rooms for the program are equipped with an abundant array of materials. There is a fee but students are not turned away if they cannot meet the full financial requirement. Likewise, there is no financial constraint for the tutors to obtain what they need. The tutors express gratitude that no tutoring request submitted to Sister Anne Veronica, Camilla Hall Administrator, is ever denied.

In fact in 2012, it was Sister Anne, who with the heart of a former educator, knew the need, saw within Camilla the skills needed and the IHMs always ready to say, "Yes." And so, the tutoring program began. Eventually, Sister



Sister Regina Maureen



Sister Marie Esther

Anne handed over the directorship to Sister Regina Maureen Anderson who continues to manage the program with the help of Sister Marie Esther Hart. In addition to the organizational piece, both Sister Regina and Sister Esther tutor middle and high school students through the wonders of math. Sister Regina especially enjoys seeing students (often girls) who lack confidence in their math ability but with guidance and encouragement find their potential and flourish. A parent told Sister, "I could not get my child to consider college but after time with you, she applied and is in!" A surprise to Sister Esther was not the opportunity or ability to help students over their math hurdles but being asked to prepare a young child for First Holy Communion. She accepted with trepidation because it was a whole new venture for this veteran teacher. Although unsure at first, she loved the experience, thus proving that not only are the Camilla tutors willing to teach, but they are open and ready to learn.

TEACHING IS LEARNING



Sister Mary Caritas

Another "learner" is Sister Caritas Schafer, a former English instructor at Immaculata University.

This year, Sister works with a bright student to hone his writing skills. She had recently acquired an iPad which she was not sure she wanted, let alone needed. Ever a learner though, she is now delighted and finds it an invaluable tool to support her and her work with the student. She says, "I was born to be a teacher" and this program and her new iPad allow her to follow her heart.



Sister Marian Anne

Sister Marian Anne Smith who taught in North and South America as well as in IHM Literacy Centers, uses

her bilingual skills to assist students of all ages. She has tutored reading and writing in Grades 2 through 5 as well as high school and adult English and Spanish. Both her younger and older students reach goals with pride. One adult who

was not able to vote because of the language barrier, came excitedly to tell Sister that she had voted for the first time. A second grader gave Sister equal joy by sharing, "I went to the library and picked out my own book." These are the moments that make the program such a treasure for all involved.

NOT JUST ACADEMICS



Sister Rose Marie

Every sister who is in the program does so on a voluntary basis. Sister Rose Marie DeCarlo, a chemistry and algebra tutor,

remarking on why she volunteers says that apart from the academic background she brings, "I have found that one can evangelize through the program as relationships develop." She finds the adage "by your children you are taught" to be so true and many would agree that through these relationships they are learning and receiving a hundred-fold.

For example, Sister George Mary Brolly, former math teacher and Math Club moderator, in addition to tutoring young students, had the opportunity to help one of the nurses' aides prepare for a test. Now that aide never sees Sister without bestowing a big hug.



Sister George Mary

One of Sister Rose Marie's students when asked by another sister, "How did your session go?" said without hesitation, "I am really learning!" To this Sister acclaims and all the tutors would echo, "Praise God!" Surely these are the best returns of any investment of time

and talent one could hope for and affirms that the value of the Camilla Tutoring Program is priceless!

IHM MISSION ADVANCEMENT MOURNS ONE OF ITS OWN

by S. Joan Rychalsky, IHM

Marie Gallagher touched the lives of so many people in encouraging, supportive and gracious ways. Marie's career began as an English teacher at St. Hubert HS (her Alma Mater). Administrative roles at Little Flower HS followed and, when she moved to New Jersey, she served as principal of two NJ schools. Her numerous volunteer ventures included helping St. Hubert High School in their crusade to save the school and assisting the Sisters of St. Francis, a religious community she especially loved.

I met Marie 30 years ago when we worked together at Little Flower High School. Marie became principal in 1992 and the major accomplishment for which she will be remembered is "Saving Little Flower." When the diocese slated the school to close in 1992, Marie organized a masterful presentation to the diocese. With her creative energy and strong leadership skills coupled with her "Together, we can do this" attitude, Little Flower demonstrated sustainability and won the chance to prove its worth.

When Marie talked of retiring, I immediately jumped at the chance to work with her again. After asking her to consider working two days a week at the



IHM Mission Advancement Office at our Motherhouse, she agreed and the IHM sisters received the gift of her fun personality and wide-ranging competence.

The articles Marie wrote for the Mission Advancement magazine informed and educated us and the paragraphs compiled and composed about our deceased sisters delighted those who knew these sisters. Her grant writing produced remarkable success; her gracious presence brightened up all our Mission Advancement events. Her assistance with the Camilla Hall Campaign responsibilities kept me sane and her generous willingness to undertake any task asked of her helped the office run smoothly with abundant laughter. Her "retirement" years proved as successful and fulfilling as her "working" years.

In the spirit of St. Therese, Marie accomplished both big and little things with great love. Marie's "happy gene," along with her kindness, wisdom, competency, inclusiveness, humor, enthusiasm and inspiration blessed us all. We miss the brightness and vibrancy of her life but are comforted in the knowledge that she is adding her own sparkle in heaven. Rest in peace, Marie. We love and miss you.

Marie entered eternal life
January 8, 2020.

Fideli Corde Award



The Fideli Corde Award (Faithful Heart) was initiated by the IHM Congregation to honor lay colleagues who exemplify the charism graces of the IHM Congregation, *love, creative hope* and *fidelity* in life and in work. These lay colleagues support, share in and advance the mission of the IHM sisters by contributing time, talent, and/or treasure.

*Dwelling Now
in Light,
Yet Ever Near!*

S. Irene Loretta Cassidy
5.7.20

S. Regina Cordis McLaughlin
5.6.20

S. M. Patricia E. Youtz
(S. Maureen Bernard)
4.6.20

S. Mary Agnes Loftus
(S. M. Michael Raphael)
3.22.20

S. Marie St. Anne McClung
2.26.20

S. Marie Paschal Penot
2.26.20

S. Anne Marie Markoe
(S. Marie Georgeanne)
2.4.20

S. Mary Rachel Torrieri
2.1.20

S. Mary P. O'Connor
(S. M. Alice Michael)
1.20.20



**Robert & Phyllis
Bellopede
Fideli Corde!**

Phyllis and Bob Bellopede, blessed with each other and with a wonderful family, have generously blessed the IHMs with their time, talent and treasure. A product of IHM education and a 1982 continuing education graduate from Immaculata, Phyllis is not only a member of Immaculata councils, committees and the Board of Trustees but as a Companion in Prayer and Ministry prays faithfully with and for the IHMs. Bob and she likewise support the IHM mission in Villa Maria by the

Sea, Stone Harbor, Camilla Hall, St. Aloysius and Villa Maria Academies. Phyllis is quoted as saying, "I love the sisters. They are amazing." The IHMs say, "We love this amazing couple who believe in and fully support the IHM Mission and Ministries but even more who themselves exemplify the IHM charism of love, creative hope and fidelity."



**Catherine Iannitti
Fideli Corde!**

For over 40 years, Catherine has been working with and supporting the IHM sisters in their mission of Catholic education. Catherine

has a great love for the sisters and for the children, parents, faculty, and staff of St. Monica School, Philadelphia. Her positive attitude and joyful, generous spirit are a gift to all who know her. She is a faithful witness to God's love by her daily attendance at Mass and prayerful disposition throughout the day. She keeps her desk drawer stocked with IHM Spiritual Treasury cards for faculty and staff and is a top seller of Camilla Hall chances each Oktoberfest. Known affectionately as "Mrs. I," there is no "I" to anything she does. It has been and continues to be all about everyone else.



Jane Robinson
Fideli Corde!

Jane has been a nurse at Camilla Hall for 41 years. She has been a faithful witness to her Catholic faith and takes her ministry seriously and responsibly. Jane has always put the sisters first and has been steadfast throughout the changes that have occurred over her many years: the inevitable evolution from mostly sister nurses and aides to a full staff of lay personnel; major construction projects that taxed the nerves but brought forth amazing creative ideas for a smooth transition;

from paper logs to everything electronic and adapting to current trends in patient care. Her years of quiet service have been years of faithfulness, love, and hope-filled presence. The charism is alive and well in the life of Jane.



Michael Plunkett
Fideli Corde!

Michael has worn many hats in Camilla Hall for over twenty years working in the dining room, the maintenance department, as gardener and currently as van driver taking sisters to doctors. A full-time employee since 2001 and a volunteer before that, Michael's service is the embodiment of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Everyone is a beneficiary of this selfless, unassuming gentleman. A friend to every IHM and to the chaplain Father Dean, who is blind, Michael not only fulfills responsibilities but volunteers in other areas and visits sisters whom he takes time to know personally. It is said, "He has done more kindnesses we do not know than the numberless ones we know." The IHM charism of love, creative hope and fidelity shines through Michael daily.



Ana Maria
Tomassini
Fideli Corde!

After much discernment, the AIHM Congregation withdrew from their missions in Chile in 2011. This paved the way for Ana Maria to be the first lay principal of Villa Maria Academy in Santiago, Chile. Since then, Ana Maria has continued the academic and spiritual excellence begun by the IHM sisters in 1940. Ana Maria has kept alive the charism of the Congregation through her leadership, focus on solidarity and service, witness to the centrality of faith in Catholic education and her personal involvement in mission-oriented projects. She has maintained the standards of VMA and its customs while developing new educational experiences that are at the forefront of the Chilean educational system. Without a doubt, Ana Maria exemplifies love, inspires creative hope, and truly serves with fidelity.



Companions in Prayer and Ministry

by S. Francis Helen Murphy, IHM

Contact Information

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COMPANIONS ARE EVERYWHERE. JOIN A GROUP NEAR YOU.



IHM Companion Groups

Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk, VA
St. John Bosco/St. David, Willow Grove, PA
St. Dominic, Philadelphia, PA
Immaculata, Somerville, NJ
Immaculato Corazon, Lima, Peru, S.A.
Lourdes – Epiphany, Miami, FL



St. Matthew, Forestville, CT
Our Lady of the Assumption, Strafford, PA
Our Lady of Peace, Philadelphia, PA
Mother of Perpetual Help, Camilla Hall, PA
St. Patrick, Norristown, PA
St. Pius X, Broomall, PA



Sacred Heart, Havertown, PA
SS. Simon & Jude, West Chester, PA
St. Theresa, Hellertown, PA



Theresa Maxis, Runnemede, NJ
Villa Maria & St. Joseph, Malvern, PA
St. William, Philadelphia, PA

Local Facilitator

Sister Regina Stupack
Sister Joy Campbell
Sister Francis Helen, Pat Evenosky
S. Francis Helen, Beverly Gaffney
Sister Maria Theresa Scudellari
Sister Carmen Teresa Fernandez

Sister Francis Helen, Ellie Thomson
Sister Rita Marian Angelilli
Sister Francis Helen, Helen Hryniuk
Sister Anne Philip Buehler
Sister Rosemary DePaul
Sister Maureen Christi VanWinkle

Sister Clare Anthony Mays
Sister Mary Beth Coyle
S. Francis Helen, Mary,
Joanne & Pricilla
Sister Claire Sullivan
Sister Francis Helen Murphy
Sister Rose Patrice Kuhn

(Pictured top to bottom) IHM Facilitators:
Sister Joy Patricia Campbell, Sister Carmen Teresa Fernandez,
Sister Anne Philip Buehler, Sister Claire Sullivan

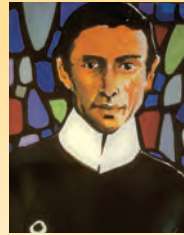
The IHM Story today...



St. Alphonsus



St. Teresa of Avila



Fr. Louis Gillet



M. Theresa Maxis

We Walk on Their Shoulders

Sister
Marie Angela
Natoli, IHM
1994-2000



My abiding belief is that we, all of us, desire truly to see God through the particular grace of our vocation; to be transformed by the spirit of Jesus, the Redeemer, and to be witnesses of this love to the People of God and to one another.

Marie Natoli, the fourteenth General Superior of the IHM Congregation was born in Reading, PA. Her mother and father emigrated from Sicily to the Reading area as children. Her parents instilled in her a great appreciation for education and a “passion for reading.” Marie entered the IHM Congregation in 1948 and after teaching in elementary and secondary schools, she was missioned to Peru and Chile, serving on the faculty of Colegio Villa Maria in Miraflores and later as Directress of Novices at the newly-formed novitiate in Chile. Upon her return to the United States, she was soon elected to the position of Sister Assistant to Mother Marie Genevieve and eventually succeeded her as Superior General in 1994.

With the diminishing number of vocations, her term of office was to be marked by the consolidation of schools, formation of regional schools, and the IHM sisters’ withdrawal from elementary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as well as New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia, California and Peru.

But not all was loss. Immaculata College celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1995 adding new graduate degrees and a degree completion program in an accelerated mode (ACCEL). With the closing of the boarding school at St. Aloysius Academy, the beautiful Wootten mansion became the site for a host of spiritual enrichment days. The Theresa Maxis Center opened in Most Blessed Sacrament Parish to serve the physical, spiritual, and academic needs of the people. IHMs moved into specialized ministries such as the deaf apostolate, and took on the role of pastoral ministers in parishes and nursing homes. Here and in Latin America, prison ministry became a new way of serving God’s people. IHMs began stretching into new areas of service.

As a gracious, warm, loving person, Sister Angela continued to be a woman of prayer and service until her retirement to Camilla Hall. God called her home on November 13, 2015.

Burial: Immaculata Cemetery, Immaculata

taken from

Renewed Vision:

Vatican II to the Millennium 1962-2006

by Sister Marie Hubert Kealy, IHM

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 JUBILARIANS!

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

Sister Marian William Hoben

SEVENTY YEARS

Sister Maria Paula Delaney
Sister Mary Louise Gallagher
Sister Doloretta Maria Rooney
Sister Dolores Ann Dennin
Sister Dolores Kathleen Gain

Sister Marita de Lourdes Barber
Sister Kathleen Dolores Keenan
Sister Marie Charlene Hughes
Sister Anita Dolores Malloy
Sister Marita Louise McGee

DIAMOND JUBILARIANS

Sister M. Helene Therese McGroarty
Sister Virginia Therese Nolan
Sister Jacinta Marie Potochney
Sister M. Barbara Ann Colligon
Sister Marie B. Maguire
Sister Anne Marie Hughes
Sister M. John Joseph Schuyler
Sister M. Jane Claire Moylan
Sister M. Cecelia Molloy
Sister M. Joseph Helen Fullam
Sister M. Lauretta Linsalata
Sister M. Noreen Joseph Mangan
Sister Mary Grace Fertal
Sister M. Patricia Anne Considine

Sister M. Catherine McElroy
Sister M. Anna L. Bradbury
Sister Mary Elizabeth Schmidt
Sister Maureen Peter O'Connor
Sister Janice Marie Firn
Sister Mary A. Leonard
Sister M. Ruth Patricia Fadden
Sister M. Cecilia Durner
Sister Amy M. Summers
Sister Honoria M. Smith
Sister Loretta Therese Swirk
Sister M. Ann Patrice Beck
Sister Mary Carmella Greco
Sister Genevieve Marie Daley

GOLDEN JUBILARIANS

Sister Mary Thomas Morris
Sister M. Rita Bridget McCullough
Sister Mary Jane McDonnell
Sister M. Peter Therese Maraini
Sister Mary Margaret Filan
Sister Suzanne Marie Mayer
Sister M. Adrienne Saybolt
Sister Rosemary DePaul
Sister M. Joyce Carolyn Bell
Sister Alice M. Schaebler
Sister Mary Anne Sweeney
Sister Mary Glackin
Sister M. Cynthia Ann Mumma
Sister M. Christine Cunningham
Sister M. Elizabeth Patrice Breen

Sister M. Patricia Michael Godoy
Sister Regina M. Havens
Sister Mary Jane Bransfield
Sister M. Elaine de Chantal Brookes
Sister M. Anne Elise Darreff
Sister M. Anne Pierre Reed
Sister M. Catherine Nally
Sister M. Sarah Lamb
Sister M. Catherine Anne Clark
Sister Christine M. Lamb
Sister M. Catherine Hill
Sister Mary H. Prskac
Sister M. Marcille McEntee
Sister M. Margaret Fleming
Sister Marie Gipprich

SILVER JUBILARIANS

Sister Karen Marie Cote

Sister M. Emily Ann Faubion

IHM SNAPSHOTS

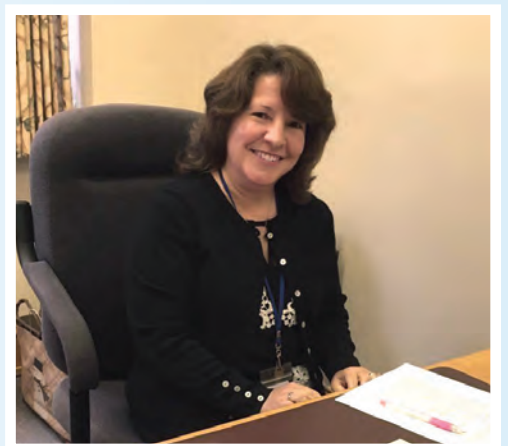
Driven by a desire “to speak a word to the weary that will rouse them” (Isaiah 50:4), Sister Pat McCormack, national and international speaker, uses various mediums – public speaking, multiple books, scores of articles, and a soon-to-be-released video series *Parent Chat with Sister Pat* – to communicate formation-education. Through the *IHM Office of Formative Support for Parents and Teachers*, Pat reaches parents, teachers, catechists, and school administrators. Time permitting, she engages students. Her message blends spirituality, psychology and wisdom that continues to be informed by parents, teachers and students. Nicknamed “Flying Nun” by her mother, she also travels by train and car.



“As the Director of Operations,” says Dawn Barnett, “my goal is to maintain a welcoming, hospitable, safe, efficient and productive environment ensuring that the mission, vision and values of the IHM sisters are reflected in all that is carried out in the name of the Congregation.” The Director of Operations is responsible for overseeing all aspects of facilities operations, auxiliary services, risk management, technology and real estate property, managing a staff of full and part-time individuals as well as outside contractors and vendors. “Since my arrival in October

of last year,” says Dawn, “the entire Congregation has been very welcoming and most appreciative of all my work. I look forward to overseeing operations and the completion of projects that will help to keep the sisters safe and comfortable as they work to advance their mission.” **Welcome aboard, Dawn!**

“As the Human Resources Director, my role goes beyond employee handbooks, arranging benefits, and focusing on behavior and performance,” says Anne Marie Pearson, new to her role as HR Director for the IHM Congregation. “It’s vital that our staff here at VMHS know that they are our most valuable resource and an important key to our success. I make it a priority to place a large amount of effort into cultivating an engaging, high-performing, and fulfilling organizational culture. No matter which task I do, it always centers around people. Each and every day is different and I welcome both the daily challenges and rewards that make myself and our employees happy and productive members of our larger community.” **Welcome aboard, Anne Marie!**



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Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
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FRONT COVER

IHM Statement of
Solidarity during
Pandemic

THIS YEAR
THE SISTERS, SERVANTS
OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
CELEBRATE
175 YEARS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY!

Go Green – Go Online

SIMPLY

- ... type in the url address: www.ihmimmaculata.org
- ... mouse over *Share our Mission* on the navigational bar to view the drop-down menu

CLICK ... Give a Gift

CLICK ... Give a gift online

IT'S THAT EASY!

... and thank you for your contribution!

Our database was developed internally from relatives, friends, former students and associates of the IHM Congregation. The office neither buys nor sells lists of names; however, we are always happy to receive new names from you, our readers. Please feel free to send us the names of those who might enjoy receiving our publications three times a year.