



IHM SISTERS – *On Mission*



St. Monica
Early Learning Center
–100 Years Young –

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

**Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
IMMACULATA, 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.*

In his book *The Courage to Teach*, Parker Palmer makes the assertion that “Good teachers possess a capacity for connectedness. They are able to weave a complex web of connections among themselves, their subjects, and their students so that students can learn to weave a world for themselves.” This edition of *On Mission* clearly illustrates that assertion by highlighting some of the connections that the IHMs and our lay colleagues have formed in the sacred task of education.

St. Monica Early Learning Center was founded 100 years ago to form a connection for single parents and the care of their children. The foresight of Father John Walsh has inspired the IHM ministry of teaching since its inception. Responding to the present needs of working parents and the latest research in early childhood education, the Early Learning Center fosters a life-long love for learning.

One of the newest IHM educational partnerships is the establishment of Cristo Rey High School, Philadelphia. Cristo Rey embodies the philosophy that if proper connections are fostered, students will see that academic skills are just one piece of a well-rounded school experience. By believing in the potential of all students, the far-reaching Cristo Rey community is demonstrating that an investment in our young people is an investment in the future. The future is bright for the Cristo Rey graduates as they recognize that they can make a difference by making our world a better place.

Sister Susan Kuk’s mantra of “Live with passion” leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of her students. Whether in the classroom or organizing various activities, Sister’s students learn that by empowering one another with energy and enthusiasm great things happen. A passionate response to life allows one to be conscious of the needs of others and sets one in motion to respond to those needs.

As Social Justice Coordinator for the IHM Congregation, Sister Rosemary Davis aids all the IHMs involved in various ministries to be aware of current social justice issues. By educating the educators, connections and relationships are not left to chance.

Camilla Hall’s residents are sisters who have spent a lifetime educating others. Kathleen Santana, Director of Technology at Camilla, has discovered that for teachers, learning never stops. As an “empowerment geek,” her relationship with her geriatric students fosters their love of learning.

As is evident within these pages, education takes a variety of forms, the basis of which is fostering relationships. Thank you for being an integral piece in helping us to strengthen our capacity for connectedness. You give us the courage to teach!

So grateful,

Sister Mary Ellen Tenny, IHM
General Superior

Take the Word of God with you

As You Go

“Love winter when the plant says nothing.”

[Thomas Merton, *Seeds of Contemplation*]

It's rare to find someone who loves winter for itself. Most “can't wait for spring”; “are sorry to see summer end”; “love the fall but hate the cold.” Though we understand that “winter is part of the necessary cycle of life,” we tend to endure rather than celebrate it both in the ecological reality and in the spiritual season of our hearts.

Merton, of course, was one of those rare “wise and holy ones” who truly understood that the aspects of the heart's winter are gifts. He knew that loneliness, emptiness and even fear are necessary parts of our spiritual growth. While we usually try to hide and are often ashamed of these feelings, Merton reminds us that to become whole, holy adults of God, we must come to “love {the} winter” of our hearts, not simply suffer it.

However, embracing our “winter” is no small task; actually, it's not a task at all, but rather, it is an enormous surrendering. We do not need to “create winter”: it shall surely, seasonally come, but we do need to permit it to “weather” us; to allow its grace to soak deep into our “soul-bones” to become as familiar and friendly as breathing.

Such a choice can only be rooted in a deep trust in a loving God. A trust that is neither a fleeting emotion nor a porous false confidence that “everything will be fine” but a decision to hold fast to what we have chosen to believe even when (perhaps especially when) everything is decidedly not “fine”. This kind of trust is a strong, solid breathing of our faith and leads to the insight that, in life, in God, nothing is wasted unless we allow it to be. Every moment, every person, every event, however joyful, terrifying or non-descript is fodder for God's enabling of our growth into the person “I am created to be.”

No small task, but a great surrendering to the wisdom of God.

“Love winter when the plant says nothing.”

Sister Marcille McEntee
is Development Director and
Teacher for the IHM Center
for Literacy and GED.



St. Monica Early Learning Center

Celebrating 100 Years



Suffer the little children, and forbid them not to come to me: for the kingdom of Heaven is for such (Matt. 19:14).

(Plaque on front door)



Sister Rosemary Peterson, Director of the St. Monica Early Learning Center, always has time to mix with teachers and young learners.

St. Monica Day Nursery, founded on September 8, 1919, embodied and continues to embody Our Lord's exhortation carved on a plaque inside the front door of the school dedicated to Sister M. Laurentina McOwen, the first director of the Day Nursery. After the twofold tragedies of World War I and the Flu Epidemic of 1918, many families were devastated personally and financially through the death of a parent.

Father John J. Walsh looked around his parish and saw distress everywhere. In compassion, he reached out to the single mothers who suddenly needed to become breadwinners and to the single fathers who needed someone to care for their motherless children while they worked. Father asked Sister Laurentina to respond to the needs

of the children of the parish—and she did so in an extraordinary way.

RESPONDING TO NEED

In the early years, Sister Laurentina cared for children from ages six months to six years. Every day she prepared homemade soup which was served at lunchtime for



A day at the Early Learning Center is packed with lessons in numbers and letters, a little rest and a little exercise. Never is God far from their minds and hearts especially at special seasons like Advent and Christmas.

all the Day Nursery children and also for anyone from St. Monica School who had no one at home. People who experienced these days recalled them in letters. One man remembered the dishes they used, that a merchant from Dock Street brought the vegetables and an Italian baker brought the bread. A woman recalls being a single mother of three non-Catholic children. She confided to a neighbor that she needed to go to work. The neighbor told her, “Go see Sister Laurentina. She will take care of your children.” During the difficult years of the Depression, Sister Laurentina, with the help of a generous group of donors, called the Friends of the Day Nursery, was able to provide clothing, heat and light for the most disadvantaged families of the parish.

A NEW HOME

Sister Laurentina remained at the helm of the Day Nursery from the day of its founding until the day of her death, twenty-three years later. The spirit she created and the connections that she made

with the neighborhood and with donors enabled St. Monica Day Nursery to continue to offer a warm, nurturing environment to the young children of the parish. Eventually, the Day Nursery outgrew its original location, two brick homes at Bancroft and Porter Streets. In 1971, the pastor of St. Monica Parish, Msgr. Aloysius Farrell undertook the building of a new school for the Day Nursery at 15th and Porter Streets. This building, designed specifically with very young children in mind, had age-appropriate lavatory facilities and an outdoor playground.

BETTER THAN HOME

It was to this building that Sister Maria Clemens Baronett came in 1980. By this time, the Day Nursery was evolving into a more modern preschool/daycare. The children who then attended were ages three to five. The doors opened at 7:30AM and the children could stay until 5:30PM. (The Day Nursery was and continues to be a 12-month program. The need for supervision extends over the

summer months). Although many of the original practices had changed, such as caring for infants, the 125 children were still fed a hot lunch each day. Sister supervised eight teachers and prepared a menu each week for the cook. Sister Clemens put a delicious dessert on display in the lunchroom each day and told the children that they had to clean their plates to get dessert. As a result, the children ate, and the parents were amazed. One mother asked, “How do you get my child to eat beef stew?” Another mother asked Sister Clemens for her recipe for chicken noodle soup, because her son loved it in school but would not eat it at home. She was amazed to learn that the soup was Campbell’s-- from a can! Sister Clemens spent 18 years as the director of the program at St. Monica Day Nursery and she says, “I loved every minute of it.”

21st CENTURY EDUCATION

Today, the Day Nursery has once again evolved. It is no longer at 15th and Porter Streets, but located in the St. Monica Junior School. Renamed St. Monica

Early Learning Center (ELC), it is now a state-of-the-art pre-school program. Sister Rosemary Peterson, director for the past seven years, is proud of the school's response to a 21st century need which arises from both parents working to provide adequately for their families. The children at the Early Learning Center have an age-appropriate, well-rounded curriculum which includes Faith formation, literacy and language development, school readiness, beginning math and problem-solving skills. This program prepares the children to begin their formal education in kindergarten and beyond. In addition to the standard curriculum, the children also participate in Yoga, dance and music classes, supported willingly by the parents through fundraising efforts. Funded by the Italian government, the school provides instruction in the Italian language

taught by a teacher from Italy. Sister Rosemary continues the long legacy of Sister Laurentina, Sister Clemens and all of the Immaculate Heart Sisters who have preceded her in making the nurturing of children and the fostering of a love for learning central to the center's philosophy. She embraces Jesus' exhortation to lead the little children to Him. The families truly appreciate all the efforts of the staff. One parent comments, "We love St. Monica Early Learning Center because the school has loving teachers, creative academic classes, and offers Italian lessons to the children while strengthening the Faith!"

Happy children, happy teachers, happy parents! For one hundred years, St. Monica Early Learning Center has truly been a force for good.

Happy 100th Birthday!



A lot of learning goes on – even during lunch and snack time.

100 REASONS WE LOVE ST. MONICA'S, THE ELC PROGRAM HAS EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS IN DEVELOPING THE "WHOLE CHILD". NOT ONLY IS MY DAUGHTER GETTING A WONDERFUL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPING BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND SOCIALLY BUT SHE IS TRULY LOVED AND CARED FOR IN MY ABSENCE!

TARA GIOVANETTI

Sister Janice Shaw, IHM is proud to stand in front of the words that make Cristo Rey High School the place to be! Faculty and students take pride in their many achievements.



CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL PHILADELPHIA, PA

Yes! This School Does Work!

by S. Janice Shaw, IHM

Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School belongs to a network of thirty-seven schools across the United States. The first school was Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago founded by Father John Foley, SJ, in 1996.

According to the Network Mission Statement:

Every Cristo Rey School provides a career focused, college preparatory education in the Catholic tradition for students with limited economic resources, uniquely integrating rigorous academic curricula with four years of professional work experience and support to and through college.

THE SCHOOL THAT WORKS!

Cristo Rey Philadelphia officially opened in August 2012 at the former Our Lady of Hope School on Broad Street in the Logan section of Philadelphia with a class of 124 freshmen. Students had an orientation “Boot Camp” spanning three weeks in August at LaSalle University. Appropriate courses prepared them for the Work-Study Program,

and provided them with intense academic preparation. Cristo Rey faculty as well as volunteers taught all day – six classes, no breaks and supervised lunches. We embodied our principal, Dr. Gomez’s phrase, “Hard work, good work, our work.”

EVERY DAY IS A FULL DAY

When Cristo Rey began, regular classes started at 7:55AM and ended at 4:20PM. The day is now designed to end at 3:30PM. Each student attends class four days a week and “goes to work” one day a week. Each grade leaves for work on a different day, so classes continue for 75% of the students.

A unique feature of all Cristo Rey schools is that each student earns a majority of their educational costs through their participation in the Work-Study program. By working one day each week in internships at white-collar jobs, medical facilities, and government services throughout Philadelphia and the surrounding areas, students take pride in helping their parents meet their tuition fees.

WHERE DO THEY WORK?

At last count, approximately 100+ businesses were part of the Work-Study Program. Students are paired with a company that fits their educational goals and plans.

Students file out daily to hospitals, law offices, broadcasting stations, elementary schools, real estate agencies, art museums, universities, financial institutions, construction companies, and food chains. The list is always expanding.

A MOVE COME TRUE

Our new Cristo Rey facility is a dream come true. It is safe, clean, and streaming with light- a beautiful oasis in the Tioga – Nicetown section of Philadelphia. Originally a bicycle factory, the exterior brick walls of the factory were retained along with the beams and duct work. It makes for a



Grand opening of the new school on Allegheny Avenue September 2019.

unique and beautifully designed study, work, and eating space.

ENERGY PLUS

When a visitor stops in, there is an immediate sense of a positive, energetic vibe throughout the building.

All who work at Cristo Rey have a surplus of energy, set high expectations for the students, are present to them through their struggles, and truly love them. They dedicate hours of time after school and on weekends to coaching, leading clubs and activities, mentoring, and just being available. “The student is not the problem, the student is the mission.”

Students are proud to be here and appreciate the academic challenges put before them. Largely due to the support they receive through the Work-Study program, they are poised, confident, and articulate, and present a sense of maturity beyond their years.

Four senior classes have graduated from Cristo Rey Philadelphia, and every graduate received acceptances to at least one four-year college.

FROM WHERE I STAND

An aspect of Cristo Rey that has provided me with inspiration over these eight years is the love and support offered by adults from the larger community. Many graduates of Catholic institutions over the last half-century are so instrumental in sustaining the mission. Alums from Villa Maria Academy High School, St. Joseph’s Preparatory School, Merion Mercy Academy, and others contribute their time, talent, and resources to our students.



During exam time, students break for a mid-morning snack. With lively music playing in the background, everyone gets a chance to unwind before heading back for another two-hour “workout.” Sister Janice teaches AP physics -- make that a three-hour exam.

I like to think that these folks “got the social justice piece” that was presented to them all those years ago.

THE SPARK BEHIND THE FIRE

Sister Regina Flanigan (pictured right) was the spark behind the IHM Congregation sponsoring Cristo Rey Philadelphia. With unbelievable energy, Sister helped to “build” Cristo Rey. She makes friends with all 500+ students on campus and does home visiting when necessary.



Like everyone at Cristo Rey she believes in the mission which, simply put, means believing in the potential of every student.

In the Spotlight

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

Sister Susan Marie Kuk

Activities Director
Trinity High School, Camp Hill, PA



◀ *Sister Susan always finds time to listen to student ideas. What better way to get the pulse of the school than during lunch period.*

some creative project, some innovative schedule, or some amazing endeavor underway, and Sister Susan was inevitably in the middle of it. It was great fun working with Susan, and we all agreed that she was the spark in the Little Flower spirit.”

“**L**ive with a passion!” One can almost hear Sister Susan Kuk emphasizing these words over a microphone to the student body or while looking at you eye to eye. One may even feel a subtle guilt trip in living any way less than passionate.

With very little exception, Susan has lived this mantra day in and day out in every high school whether as math and science teacher, activities director, or principal. She has spread her “passion” at Immaculate Heart

HS/Cardinal Brennan HS, Archbishop Prendergast HS, Little Flower HS, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy FL, Hallahan HS, Trenton Catholic Academy NJ, and now Trinity HS.

Marie Gallagher, former principal of Little Flower HS, is unequivocal: “I can honestly say that I never worked with a more dynamic teacher and administrator than Sister Susan. In her role as Activities Director at Little Flower HS, she literally willed the school to life. There was always

THE RIGHT PERSON AT THE RIGHT TIME

The seed of Sister Susan’s vocation was planted in high school – a public high school where the idea of a religious vocation was cause for scorn. The IHM sisters staffed a boarding school up the street from Randolph-Macon College, Lynchburg, VA, where Susan went to school. “I went to Mass there on Sundays and visited the sisters

when I needed to get away. The joke was Mother Claudia Honsberger (principal and superior) would meet you at the front door with spirituality and Sister John Bosco would meet you at the back door with food. I eventually talked to Mother about having a vocation. She was a dynamic, wonderful, and very spiritual person - sometimes overwhelming- but she helped me through the process at a time when there were very few Catholics in the South and fewer at school.”

MISSIONARY AT HEART

For fourteen years, Susan took girls to Mindo, Ecuador. There they ran a summer camp which has now expanded to provide medical and dental care for children. Now, she travels to Avocat, Jamaica, to also run a summer camp, sleeping on a classroom floor and bathing in the waterfall at the bottom of a steep hill. Arriving back home, everyone shares the same feeling: hot water never felt so good!

HEAD OF THE HOUSE

Among Susan’s many duties as Activities Director at Trinity HS is that of head of the House system. Based on the Harry Potter Hogwarts Houses, the school is divided into four Houses: DeLaSalle, Immaculata, Loyola and Seton. Students are randomly assigned to a House and then randomly assigned to a Mentor Group (homeroom). They remain in that Mentor Group throughout their time at Trinity. “Each Mentor Group is a mix of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors,” explains Susan. “The students form relationships within the group. They experience support, a feeling of belonging, and develop friendships that may not have happened otherwise.”

“Sister Susan has helped to set the standard for school spirit for a

decade,” says Mr. John Cominsky, Principal of Trinity High School. “She works with the students to plan most of the activities from pep rallies, to school liturgies, to the many service projects. Sister leads by example in that she attends virtually every athletic contest or student performance. She is creative and willing to take risks with new ideas, especially if they are student generated. She cares about the appearance of our building and continually encourages the students to support one another in all ways. She is one of those people who represents our mission ‘heart and soul’.”

PASSION NEVER DIES

In her younger days, Sister Susan was a cheerleader in high school which is no surprise to anyone who knows her. She was also an avid skier, but knee and hip replacements have put an end to those care-free days on the slopes; however, she still has a passion for hiking, traveling, and reading. After many years of teaching math and science she is definite about one thing: “I love my ministry as Activities Director. That is the fun part of school.”



As Activities Director, Sister Susan leads assemblies and challenges the students to play, sing, or pray with passion. It’s the only way!

Sister Rosemary Davis

(S. Dolores Kathryn)

IHM Social Justice Coordinator
Immaculate Heart Convent, Springfield, PA



For the past 13 years, through prayer, education, and call to action, Sister Rosemary has kept all IHMs informed about all social justice issues.

by S. Rosemary Davis, IHM

As the youngest child of eight, I was raised in a “union” family, an environment very much aware of justice for workers and the daily struggle of working families.

The Great Depression of the 30s, during which I was born, intensified the daily challenges families faced. Although my early years reflected these tough times, I was probably unaware of the anxieties of my parents to feed and educate eight children. In the late thirties, my

father became an employee of the AFL union, assuming the role of business agent, treasurer, and later president. The start of WW II brought deep concerns to the family, having four grown sons and a younger one still in school.

In the meantime, I attended Most Blessed Sacrament School until 1947 when I followed the path of my seven siblings in receiving a fine education at West Catholic High School. Influenced by my mother’s deep spirituality, I decided to enter the IHM Congregation upon graduation so that I could

help others to improve their lives. My ongoing closeness to unions impacted my development as I earned degrees from Immaculata and Villanova Universities. I also received grants for enrichment at the University of Virginia and LaSalle University.

I taught elementary grades at Incarnation (Phila.), St. Ann School (Phoenixville), and St. Matthew School (Phila.) before moving into the role of English teacher in the 60s at Bishop Kenrick HS (Norristown), Allentown Central Catholic HS, Marian HS (Hometown, PA), Notre Dame HS (Miami, FL), Immaculata HS (Somerville, NJ) and Abp. Prendergast HS (Drexel Hill, PA).

GRACED MOMENTS

Delving into literature with students led me to a powerful, recurring theme—the connection between human relationships and social justice. Fed by the times, by family values, by the awareness of close friends, a strong interest in areas of social justice fueled my commitment to a number of issues. Moving from high school ministry to opening a Peace Center in Transfiguration School in 1996 marked a graced moment for my social justice growth and later my use of this growth for our Congregation.

Asked by the IHM Administration to help reconnect our three IHM groups (Monroe, MI, Scranton and Immaculata, PA) with the Oblate Sisters of Providence, MD, by forming a “healing racism” committee, a new opportunity opened for our four Congregations to reconnect by acknowledging our past and embracing our future together. I had the privilege of serving for a number of years on this important outreach, an immersion into racism and its effects on our four Congregations and on our society at large.

SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPHASIS

Then, in 2006, I was appointed the first formal social justice coordinator for our IHM Congregation, a significant move. Realistically, we recognize that, since its founding in 1845, our Congregation has consistently responded to the emerging needs of immigrants, refugees, the poor and vulnerable. We have always been engaged in social justice endeavors. In fact, for over 175 years, we have dedicated ourselves, our gifts, our energies, and our expertise to the needy by providing pastoral care, education and social services for our nation’s newcomers and their families.

The journey and our response continues even to this day. Once appointed, I formed a social justice team, sister-volunteers eager to research critical issues and suggest doable actions for our sisters. A regular venue of communication, namely, the IHM monthly newsletter and a bimonthly email called *InfoAlert* sent directly to each IHM convent and to interested parties, educates readers and focuses our efforts on specific issues each year. A strong,

persistent response to our shared efforts comes from our retirement home, Camilla Hall, where nearly 200 sisters engage in confronting the many critical injustices of our time through prayer and a variety of actions.

and on how to get involved in social justice issues. We participated in prayer vigils to support immigrants, attended workshops on racism and other injustices, and joined many organizations that energize efforts for justice.



Sister Rosemary Davis (l, cntr) leads the social justice team in lively discussion surfacing ways to keep social justice issues at the forefront of IHM concern.

KEEPING ALERT, AWARE!

What issues have we addressed? Printed reminders on the use of water have been posted in every convent and IHM institution for the past ten years. We learned about human trafficking, a form of modern slavery, through workshops. We supported Dawn’s Place, a shelter for trafficking victims, sponsored by area religious women. We supported and visited Philadelphia’s Covenant House for homeless teens. During the 2016 election campaign, we visited hotels and motels around the city to discourage trafficking. We collected supplies for shelters. To activate our work for immigrants, we sent a *Justice for Immigrants* packet to every IHM convent; we provided information on citizenship and voting. We prepared power points on poverty/hunger, water, trafficking,

A TIME TO EDUCATE, PRAY, AND ACT

As a team, we have issued public statements against racism, against the violence in Charlottesville, against inhumane detention centers and the separation of families. And we renew our determination to do justice through a three-fold strategy of education, prayer, and action.

With the generous help from all IHM sisters, and with the vibrant, ongoing encouragement of the IHM Administration, the work continues and spreads. Ignited in a “union” family, and nurtured in community, my passion for justice continues in this life-giving ministry of our entire IHM Congregation.

Powerhouse Presence

Camilla Hall

Kathleen Santana

Director of Technology



Kathleen Santana is a “household name” at Camilla Hall. She is on-deck for just about anything that has the word technology associated with it.

According to *dictionary.com* “geek” is described as “a digital-technology expert or enthusiast (a term of pride as self-reference, but often used disparagingly by others).”

As Director of Technology at Camilla Hall, Kathleen Santana could well describe herself with pride as a “digital-technology geek.” However, while all in Camilla might use the term “geek” to describe her, it would NEVER be spoken disparagingly – but rather with amazement and gratitude. Sister Anne Veronica expresses the

thoughts of all in Camilla as she says, “With skill, grace, sensitivity and good humor, Kathleen ‘saves the day’ for us on so many occasions. With a spirit of generosity she is available to administrators, employees, sisters and vendors. She keeps us “plugged in” and feeling a part of the technological world of the twenty-first century.”

Kathleen’s job description includes acting as liaison with the contracted IT Company, overseeing all aspects of administrative computing as well as the phone software/hardware, voice mail and individual cell phones, maintaining inventory of hardware, software and licensing, budgeting

and general troubleshooting. In addition, she also manages Camilla’s Facebook page and website.

Anyone reading that description would assume that the tech world was her first skill and working at Camilla in technology was a “natural.” Nevertheless, you would be mistaken. Kathleen came from New York to this area with her three sons in 2001 and worked in a financial and insurance services firm where she “fell into” helping the reps with needed technology. Moving from there, she worked for a company that sold printers where she became more adept at troubleshooting with the emerging technology. The tech world opened itself to her because she just never gave up searching for solutions to the problems tech presented.

A little problem she was not so sure how to solve was that she would see the IHM sisters at Saint Agnes Parish in West Chester and wished she could get to know them. In 2008, she saw an advertisement in the church bulletin for the position of Administrative/HR assistant at Camilla. The problem of getting to know the IHM sisters was solved. In her words, “My wish came true.”

Having incorporated and grown her skills, she took on the role of IT Resource & Support/ Administrative Assistant at Camilla in 2016. Kathleen furthered her IHM connection and her expertise by

enrolling at Immaculata University and attaining a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Human Resource Management with a minor in Theology in May 2018. Subsequently, she took a position at another nursing home. Without hesitation, Sister Marie Elaine Farabaugh says, "She left her heart in Camilla." In January 2019 when Sister Anne Veronica contacted her and offered the position of Director of Technology at Camilla, she was thrilled. In Kathleen's words "There is no place like Camilla."

*"With skill,
grace, sensitivity
and good humor,
Kathleen
saves the day for
us on so many
occasions."*

PAY IT FORWARD

One could say that she is not only a "tech geek/enthusiast" but she is an "empowerment geek/enthusiast." Her objective is not to wow everyone with her own skills but to assist and empower co-workers and sisters to use and enjoy technology. Her best success is marked when a sister she teaches, in turn teaches the skill to another sister and they both come back to her so proud. And come back proud and grateful they do!!! Camilla is not only her work place but became "home" from the onset



Kathleen Santana (r) is always willing and able to help "problem solve" for the sisters. S. Mary Chamberlain takes advantage of Kathleen's expertise to get her i-pad back on track.

of her employment in 2008. Her boys, who are college students and college graduates now, worked at Camilla as teenagers too. When they were younger, and as a mom with no family nearby, she often looked to the wisdom of the sisters for support and advice – almost like a bevy of grand-moms helping her raise her sons. And the boys knew the sisters (especially Sister Regina Mundi) were part of their lives and their mom's. In fact, if they did get into a little trouble they would ask - hoping the answer was "no" – "Mom, did you tell Sister?"

This ever-busy woman thrives on the excitement that no two days are alike in her position. Her very full schedule, however, never deters her from making time for each one. Passing on tech skills is the obvious job and ministry Kathleen embraces but what many may not know is that she also passes along the Catholic faith in her volunteer role of fifth-grade Religious Education teacher at Saint Joseph Parish, Downingtown, PA. A geek? An expert? An enthusiast? A treasure in Camilla Hall? Yes, yes, yes, yes!

*Dwelling Now in Light,
Yet Ever Near!*

S. Marian D. Frantz

(S. Marian Dolores)

1.14.20

S. M. Joseph Francis Stauffer

1.14.20

S. Mary Sheila Foy

1.8.20

S. Mary Elizabeth Cawley

(S. Marita Denise)

1.7.20

S. Kathleen Mary Smith

(S. M. Irene Joseph)

12.9.19

S. Mary Ann Burke

(S. Assumpta Mary)

11.23.19

S. M. Barbara E. Cossaboon

(S. M. Elizabeth Bertrand)

11.8.19

S. M. Patricia Margaret Krage

(S. Regina Patrice)

11.1.19

S. Loretta Anne Dinda

(S. M. Loretta Shaun)

10.20.19

In the Formation Wing

*Stephanie Conrad
St. Joseph Parish, York, PA
Home Parish*

luck would have it, the Immaculate Heart Sisters were often at this rally, too. “I also had friends who attended Catholic school,” she says, “and through them I got to know the IHM sisters.” (IHMs staffed St. Patrick elementary and secondary schools in York for many years.)

Although only here at Villa Maria House of Studies for a few short months, Stephanie busies herself with Theology classes at Immaculata University, helping at Camilla Hall on Fridays, and

The IHM Congregation officially welcomed Stephanie Conrad into the postulate on September 8, 2019. Stephanie follows a long line of young girls who entered on that date – the birthday of the Blessed Mother.

After graduating from West Chester University with a BA in Political Science and an MPA (Masters of Public Administration), Stephanie’s “vocation” as a globe trotter seemed to be a hallmark of her post-graduate years. In the space of 14 years, she traveled to ten countries. Fulfilling her innate desire to serve, Stephanie became a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia for two years. There she taught English to students in grades 3-9. Her most recent travel experience was to Jamaica as part of a mission team from her parish. Again, service was the goal. She lists, “We built a house, repainted a school, and visited the school our parishioners sponsor, etc., etc. There was no shortage of large or small service opportunities.”

THE MAKING OF A NUN

For Stephanie, the idea of a religious vocation took root a little later in life. With a subtle nudge from a parish priest with whom she worked,



Stephanie is an invaluable aid to Sister Marie Garman, director of the PREP program at SS. Philip & James Parish. Preparing classroom materials and utilizing her computer skills rounds out her day “on mission.”

Stephanie began to feel “the pull.” “He jokingly commented that I would make a good nun, but the notion stuck with me,” she admits, “and it got to a point where I couldn’t ignore the tug towards religious life.”

Stephanie not only attended but often volunteered at a local youth rally. As

assisting with PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) at SS. Philip & James Parish in Exton. According to Sister Marie, “Stephanie is a Godsend. Everything I can’t get done falls to her. She helps make the PREP program a success.”



Companions in Prayer and Ministry

by S. Francis Helen Murphy, IHM

Welcome New Sister Facilitators



Sister Clare Anthony Mays missioned at Sacred Heart Parish, Havertown, PA, offered to initiate parish members into the charism of the IHM Congregation as Companions in Prayer and Ministry. When Sister Clare made this suggestion to her faith-life members, they wanted to begin meeting right away. We look forward to welcoming these new members at our retreat days here at the Motherhouse.

Sister Rosemary DePaul is missioned at St. Patrick Parish, Norristown, PA. Sister “Mimi” has the privilege of introducing the first Spanish-speaking Companions group in the States to complement the large membership of Companions in Lima, Peru. We look forward to having them join other IHM Companions at our retreat days as we socialize and pray together.



Sister Rose Patrice Kuhn is missioned at St. William Parish, Philadelphia, PA. Sister Rose ministers to the people of the parish, many of whom are of Spanish descent. We look forward to meeting with and praying with these new IHM Companions when they join us at Villa Maria House of Studies.



God has certainly blessed us with an influx of new IHM Companion members and sister facilitators. We praise and thank God together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary for all the good graces that are generated by and with our faithful Companions and sister facilitators!

Our Miami Companions joined in celebrating Mary Horton (below), an original IHM Companion, who marked her 100th birthday. “Be assured of our prayers and gratitude, Mary. We wish you many more years of health and happiness. God bless you abundantly!”



In Memoriam
Blessed Sacrament
Norfolk, VA

Paul Raper 11/2019
twenty-year
IHM Companion

The IHM Story today...



St. Alphonsus



St. Teresa of Avila



Fr. Louis Gillet



M. Theresa Maxis

We Walk on Their Shoulders

Mother Marie Genevieve Lawler, IHM

1981-1994



In Our Lady, we have a perfect servant and model, and in her Magnificat, a profound expression of true humility. Like her, may we forget ourselves and learn to become God-centered so that our lives may be dedicated to Him and not a glorification of ourselves.

Genevieve Lucille Lawler was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the oldest of five children. The bishop of Savannah/Atlanta introduced her to the IHM Congregation and Immaculata College (Class of 1941). Genevieve holds the distinction of being the first woman to be inducted into the Honor Society of the prestigious Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. She was invited to teach there – which she did for three years.

She entered Villa Maria Novitiate in 1945 and was professed in 1948. For the next nine and one-half years, Sister Genevieve taught secretarial studies and economics at Immaculata College. Her election as treasurer of the Congregation in 1957 began thirty-seven years of capable and committed service. In 1981, she was elected Mother General and then for a second term in 1987. She was, for thirteen years, to “give as gift all she had received as gift,” generously, lovingly, efficiently and above all, graciously.

Like the women before her, her administration was marked by growth both in

North and South America. The IHM House of Prayer in Nesquehoning and the IHM Spirituality Center were opened. Pacis Hall was built for sisters on staff at Camilla Hall. *Nuestra Senora del Rosario*, Caracavi, was opened in Chili; the first *Fe y Alegria* school, tuition-free, welcomed the poor in Peru; the *Instituto Superior Technologico Junior Business College* was established in San Antonio, Callao, Peru.

Those elected to assist Mother Marie Genevieve knew her as a woman of God, resilient to setback or criticism. She moved easily from serious community concerns to delightful companionship with her sisters.

Her two terms in office completed, Mother was named superior of Camilla Hall. Now the sick and retired sisters enjoyed the warm concern and personal interest of their “Mother.” She died on November 2, 2003.

Burial: Immaculata Cemetery, Immaculata

Content taken from
We Walk on Their Shoulders
by Sister Maria Corona Crumback, IHM



Celebrating Our IHM Legacy of Grace • 175 Years

Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are delighted to announce that The Archdiocesan Educational Fund (Archedfund.org) has awarded the Congregation a grant in the amount of \$81,300 for the 2019/2020 academic/fiscal year.

The grant will fund Year 1 of the “IHM 175th Anniversary Vocation Education Program.” This program will create and employ contemporary tools and visual displays that will expand Congregational vocational outreach.

Matthew H. McCloskey, Jr. (1893 - 1973)

building contractor and U.S. Ambassador to Ireland (1962 - 1964), created and funded the charitable organization in 1967 to advance Catholic education and evangelization throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



A person behind the scenes, but very much on top of everything is Sister Suzanne McCullough, Director of Hospitality for the IHM Spirituality Center at Villa Maria House Studies, Malvern, PA.

From seasonal decorating to making beds, scheduling meals, overseeing housekeeping, sewing “to make due,” or creating something original, Suzanne can do it all with ease

and grace. Everyone knows her Christmas cactus plants are “to die for.” Armed with her many skills as a former family and consumer science teacher, she can give tips on anything “domestic.” After eight years as Director of Hospitality, Sister Suzanne easily creates the ambiance to make every retreatant or visitor feel welcome. What a gift!

It seems just like yesterday when the IHM Congregation welcomed Karen Creely as its first lay Director of Communications; however, Karen has been onboard for three years and has immersed herself in the “ways and days” of the Congregation.

Karen oversees the website, organizes congregational email, monitors social media accounts, assists in the production of flyers/brochures, maintains and updates the Crisis Management Plan, serves as media spokesperson, publishes press releases, all the while immersing herself in the IHM charism and mission.

According to Karen, “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in a role that hopefully makes a positive impact on the sisters’ lives. I see the sisters share and live their charism daily; thus, making the Motherhouse an incredible place to work.”



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FRONT COVER

Sister Rosemary Peterson reads the
Christmas story to the
youngest among us.

Jesus is always the reason for
any season.

**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.