

From the IHM Archives...

**Update on the I.H.M. Archives
at Villa Maria House of Studies:
Continuing to Tell Our IHM Story...
In a New Venue!**

COMING SOON! I.H.M. HERITAGE ROOM

Down through the years, our Sisters' faithful trust in Divine Providence has consistently been a hallmark of our IHM story.

- *Rediscovering Father Gillet*
- *Attainment of Papal Approbation*
- *Mother Theresa returning to her sisters in blue*
- *Purchasing the land that would become Immaculata*
- *Finding not one, but two wells at Immaculata College*
- *Building Villa Maria by-the-Sea in 5 months in 1937*
- *Living through not one, but two Pandemics*

Now, once again trusting in Divine Providence, we offer an update on the soon-to-be new IHM Heritage Room as part of the IHM Archives!



What originally was a Reading Room on the Motherhouse first floor across from the sacristy, eventually, through the inspiration of Sister Marie Angela Natoli and her General Administration, became the South American Room. Now, through the initiative and inspiration of Sister Mary Ellen Tenny and our current General Administration, this same space is soon to become our I.H.M. Heritage Room!

Please read here the Vision for this new IHM Heritage Room, as offered by our General Administration...

IHM Sisters Heritage Room

As we plan for the re-purposing of our room, we see it evolving into a destination for multiple inspiring and possibly life-changing activities such as reflection, prayer, learning, conversation, sharing and visioning that will enrich the life of each person who visits. We hope that it will become not a room of history but a space for remembering, owning and celebrating our IHM legacy!

This space is not intended to be a static museum of artifacts. We desire it to be where through our displays we will exhibit for visitors the words of our beloved hymn: Loving God of our past, Faithful God of our present, Provident God of our future, we offer you ... praise, love, thanksgiving now and forever!

We desire the room to breathe our living IHM legacy of grace. We want our IHM Heritage Room to animate our IHM spirit and mission and to motivate new expressions of how to bring to life our IHM graces of love, creative hope and fidelity as we continue to recognize and respond to the emerging needs of God's people.

Since there is no elevator access to the top floor Archives, this will provide a much more inclusive opportunity to share and display our sacred history, as well as our treasured artifacts of both North and South America. We look forward to welcoming many more of our sisters, as well as other countless visitors. The original Archives will remain on the top floor.

Initial preparation of the room has involved such projects as: removing the drapes and sheers, additional tinting of the windows, stripping of the old and laying of the new carpet, extending our of WiFi and security capability, refinishing of the doors, replacing of two doors with panic- barred doors, lemon-oiling the paneling, and removing furniture not needed. The VMHS Maintenance Team, as well as several contractors, have professionally tended to these initial projects. Currently our IHM Heritage Room team is working with the Warfel Construction Company, as well as their sub-contractors, to design and finish the floor plan, furnishings, display areas, and technology capability.

the hallway with her inspiring painting, speaking to us of the life, suffering, and triumph of Mother Theresa Maxis. We are deeply grateful to Sister Helen for sharing her deep devotion to Mother Theresa with us!



As in the past, the IHM Heritage Room Team confidently continues to work on and develop the elements of this new project with deep trust in Divine Providence! Stay tuned for updates!

***Praise, Love, Thanksgiving,
Our God to Thee!***



*Contributions to this article from:
The staff of the IHM Archives-Villa Maria
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included current as of June, 2021.*

Sister Helen David Broncato, IHM has graced the Heritage Room entrance in