

From the
IHM Archives...
February 1, 2023



*Fascinating Discoveries in the Archives...
As we continue to share our IHM Story!*

Since the foundation of our IHM Congregation, our sisters have been amazingly faithful in recording and preserving our community's history. Recently, singular artifacts have been a great source of our interest, as we appreciate the fact that former archivists and many other sisters took notice of, as well as identified and saved them, for posterity. It is with great delight that we share some of these archival discoveries, which continue to tell our IHM story!

Seal of the IHM Community
A Latch Hook Rug, 56" in Diameter



Often, we have admired this rug; eventually however, a sister visited the Archives one day and recognized it. She lifted it up and showed us the official label on the bottom of the rug. She actually knew the artist!



*Labeled as "An Original,
Made by Rev. Robert Lepleiter, 1982"*

Father was a priest in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

**Framed Plain Brown Cross, hanging on
the Archives Wall**



No doubt we passed this cross on the wall daily, if not several times a day; however, one day a faded gold plate at the crossbeam caught our attention. It reads, "Father Gillet's Cross". This led to a lengthy search for information, including the cautious removal of the back plate of the frame, to find nothing. The advice of several experts has led to several possibilities. Perhaps it was Father Gillet's original mission cross when he preached in Monroe. Perhaps it was his monastic cross when he joined the Cistercians in France. If you magnify closely

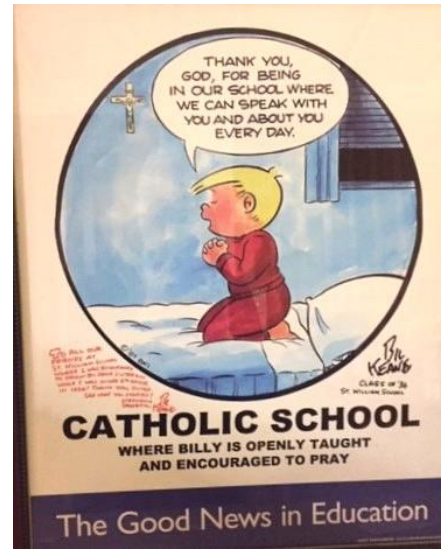
at the vertical beam below the crossbeam, you will see what appears to be an imprint; perhaps there had originally been a seal imprinted there. If you look above the crossbeam, it appears that some marking was there as well. If anyone has an inkling, we would be grateful. Meanwhile, Father Gillet holds the answer to this mystery!

Street Sign: Sister Fermina Blvd



Anyone who was associated with Queen of Heaven School, Cherry Hill, NJ, depending on the time frame, may remember crossing over “Sister Fermina Blvd” on your way to the school. Sister M. Fermina Grogan was an Office Aide there from 1980 until December 1984, when she was admitted to Camilla Hall Nursing Home because of illness. Although she had hoped to return to Queen of Heaven, God called her home on June 29, 1985. Obviously, she was loved by students, faculty, staff, and families at Queen of Heaven, to have a little street named after her.

Framed Cartoon: “Catholic School”



This discovery seems very appropriate, as we celebrate *Catholic Schools Week!* As you see, it was designed by Bill Keane, whom many of us remember as a famous cartoonist. The red inscription presents this rendition “...to all his friends at St. William School” in Philadelphia, where he attended, Class of 1936. He very specially credits a Sister Ann, who encouraged him to draw in sixth grade in 1934. Archival research discovers this sister to be Sister M. Anne Canning (*no photo available*). God bless her for being such an inspiration to her students!

Conclusion:

As mentioned at the beginning, we are grateful to our archivists through the years, as they recognized and treasured artifacts that contribute to the telling of our IHM story! Through our charism of love, creative hope, and fidelity, may we sisters continue to recognize and preserve our sacred history!

Artifacts gathered from IHM Archives, Malvern, PA. Contributions to this article from: The Staff of the IHM Archives – Villa Marie House of Studies, Malvern, PA. Current as of February 1, 2023.