



Ongoing Formation 2018 Chapter Goals

2019-20 GOAL #3 “Cultivate a spirit of racial inclusion, cultural sensitivity, and respect for persons with disabilities, generate an awareness of the dynamics of racism and understand the effects.”

OGF Activity - Bethany Welch, Ph.D. Oct 19, 2019 “United in Love: Different Cultures One Faith”

2020-21 GOAL #4 “Respond to the emerging needs for ministry with inclusion and cultural sensitivity.”

OGF Activity - Due to Pandemic: “Living Witness” Narratives, Constant Contact October – December 2020

OGF Activity + 2021-2022 Extension of Goals: To offer resources for personal reflection.

Living Witness: Our Present +++ Our Future

March 2021 Invitation for Personal Reflection

Article: [What a forgotten black nun can teach us about racism and Covid-19 | America Magazine](#)

Invitation: As we prepare to celebrate our OSP/IHM 175th Anniversary in July 2021, we invite you to ponder the intersection of our own Community history with the current headlines in our Nation. For Women of Faith, there are no coincidences; for Daughters of Alphonsus & Theresa, Divine Providence sustains our search and efforts to make meaning amidst mystery. After reading the article above, let this question grace and guide your reflection.

Question: *Recognizing my place of privilege in a reality of systemic injustice, how can I “be the change I want to see?”*

Come & See + Ongoing Formation Section of the IHM Website + Explore!

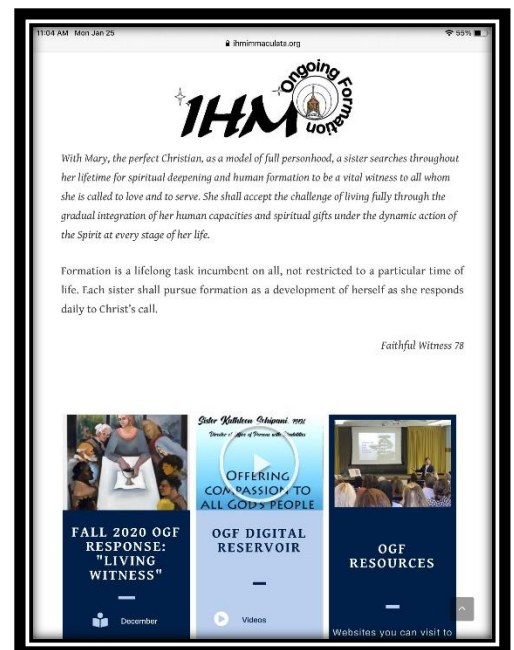
1) Web Address: [Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary \(IHM\) – Radiating joyful service and promoting Gospel values \(ihmimmaculata.org\)](http://Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) – Radiating joyful service and promoting Gospel values (ihmimmaculata.org))



2) Click & enter password (fiat2) to “Sisters Section”

3) Scroll down on list to “Ongoing Formation”

4) Explore the three “boxes” containing OGF Efforts and Resources since Chapter 2018.





“Theresa’s Journey,” Helen David Brancato, IHM (2020)

“This painting celebrates Mother Theresa Maxis’ remarkable journey. Our IHM history stems from her colorful life of courage, risk, rupture, exile, reconciliation, and vision for the future. Her living memory, *Viva Memoria*, runs through the painting as well as the racism that caused her separation and exile from the community she helped to found. It is also about the strength and resilience of women who reached out to those most in need in the spirit of Saint Alphonsus Liguori. It is about the women who believed in the Providence of God despite all obstacles. This visual history centers on Theresa Maxis, a woman born ahead of her time. Her Haitian heritage and initial religious formation with the Oblate Sisters of Providence, led her to the importance of educating children of color in a racially biased Baltimore, MD during the early 1800s. After 15 years with the Oblate Community, thinking that they were close to disbanding, she accepted the call from Father Louis Gillet, a Redemptorist, to travel to Monroe, MI to educate children of immigrants.

Theresa is the living memory, the *Viva Memoria*. Each one of the IHM Congregational branches (Monroe, Scranton, and Immaculata) stands on the shoulders of Theresa, whose journey illuminates the spiritual strength and moral courage of women in the face of challenge and adversity. Theresa paid a high price for her radical witness, yet her patience and perseverance realized her hope for re-unification.

“She signals to us the direction we ought to be taking as followers of the poor Christ.” (Margaret Gannon, IHM). In the Alphonsian spirit, she was constantly “on the edges” and her choices were at times uncomfortable to others. In this painting, we look at Theresa with new eyes and an open heart. Her journey of spirited daring, her deeds of hope and her living memory flow through this visual history and lead us into the future where she inspires us to embrace the Alphonsian invitation to serve the poor, and the most abandoned.”

S. Helen David Brancato, IHM



“Theresa’s Journey,” [Central Panel], Helen David Brancato, IHM (2020)

“The Second Panel depicts her courage to leave Baltimore and travel to Monroe, MI to educate immigrant children – her vision led her to new territories – Susquehanna, Reading – her radical witness was not always understood... her choices and her outspokenness had repercussions.

The Third Panel signifies how history of the times tried to box in this woman who was born ahead of her time – she is one with the tree whose branches spread far and wide beyond the confinement of history. The broken branch signifies ... her rejection and exile.”

The Fourth Panel is titled “The Final Isolation.” It reads from the outer edge inward as Theresa reflects on her life after years of exile and is welcomed back to West Chester.

S. Helen David Brancato, IHM