

From the IHM Archives...

**In Loving Memory
of
Sister Genevieve Mary Simons, IHM**



October 13, 1920 – September 28, 2022

*With Deep Gratitude for Your Loving
Service and Faithful Dedication*

To The IHM Archives 1980 – 1999

It was during the tenure of Sister Rose Bernard, IHM Archivist, that the Archives finally emerged out of boxes and were put on display at the new Villa Maria House of Studies. In 1980, Sister Rose was given an Assistant Archivist, Sister Genevieve Mary Simons, and the two of them were charged with the moving of the Archives from a small room to a very large display area, the original sewing room on the second floor of Villa Maria House of Studies. This was a massive undertaking. According to Sister Genevieve, it took months to move and unpack the boxes. By this time, though, Sister Rose's many years of work had resulted in a strong organizational structure for the Archives. Every single document and artifact was catalogued. They purchased display cases, furniture and shelving. The outside room was set up for display and research, the back room, climate controlled, for the storage of catalogued papers and artifacts.

Sister Genevieve Mary Simons, the second Archivist, was effusive in her praise of Sister Rose Bernard. Sister Rose patiently taught Sister Genevieve everything she needed to know to keep future acquisitions organized. Sister Genevieve says, "It didn't take me long to love the Archives." She especially enjoyed the development of the catalogue cards because she knew that these made the collection accessible to anyone searching for information. Sister Genevieve worked in the Archives from 1980 to 1999.

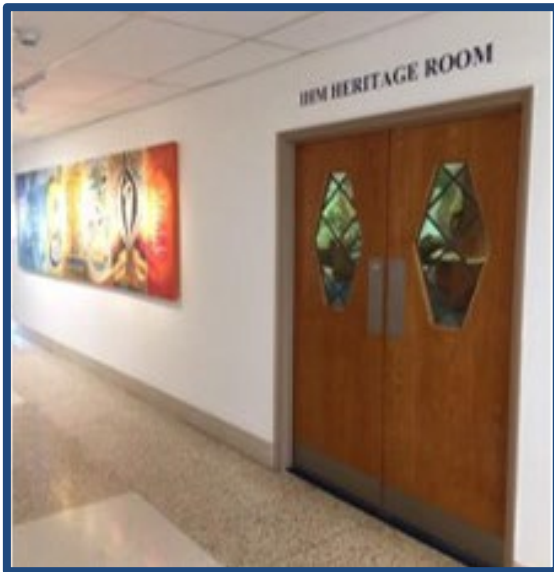
It was during the latter segment of her work in the Archives, when Sister Marie Angela Natoli was elected General Superior, that Sister Angela commissioned Sister Genevieve to organize a South American Room. This South American Room showcased many beautiful treasures and artifacts from Peru and Chile. These are gifts and honors received by the sisters, both during their missionary years there, as well as during return visits to South America. Sister Genevieve often recalled her wonderful years in the Archives and insisted, "I want the history of the Congregation to be preserved."

Sister M. St. Michel Mullany was appointed Assistant Archivist in 1996 and became Archivist in 1997, although Sister Genevieve remained with her for a few more years. Just as Sister Genevieve appreciated the guidance that she received from Sister Rose Bernard, Sister St. Michel recounts similar coaching from Sister Genevieve.

Fast forward to Summer 2022...

Although the latest Archives project of the new IHM Heritage Room still needed some finishing touches, we, with the faithful support of Sister Mary Ellen Tennity, fulfilled the dream of having Sister Genevieve, at the young age of 101 years, visit the new room! On July 15, 2022, Sister Anne Francine Windle and Michael Plunkett transported her in the famous Camilla van to the motherhouse. Sister Mary Ellen Tennity and the General Administration, as well as Karen Creely and some of the motherhouse sisters,

joined us in welcoming Sister and enjoying the hour long visit with her. Sister Genevieve delighted in seeing the new Vocation Wall, Sister Helen David's hallway artistic depiction of Mother Theresa Maxis, the new Heritage Room, and of course, seeing and visiting the Motherhouse Chapel once again. Sister Genevieve's childlike simplicity, deep appreciation, and joyful smile told the story! Once again, God provided!



On Wednesday, September 28, 2022, God called our Sister Genevieve Mary home. The original version of this article was completed on Tuesday, September 27, 2022. God's plans are not ours. The article you read here is the revision, as we commend our Sister to God.

In closing, we praise and thank God for Sister Genevieve Mary, as well as for all those IHM archivists who have gone before us! We thank them for their dedication in preserving the IHM Legacy of Grace!

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