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IHM SISTERS – *On Mission*

A publication of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Malvern, PA

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



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“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” This quote by Lao Tzu is familiar to most of us. It seems to resonate because we can relate to those times in our lives when we summoned the courage to take the first step and the journey seemed to unfold before us. We all know that at times it takes much boldness and soul searching to have the inner strength to take that first step. This edition of *On Mission* reveals some concrete examples of the inner work needed to take that proverbial first step and to be faithful to where the journey leads.



Sister Emily Faubion completed the El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, commonly known as The Way of Saint James. This journey which officially began in Irun, Spain, led Sister Emily to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the burial site of St. James. Considering the many setbacks Sister Emily encountered as a result of the pandemic, Sister Emily persevered and will be unpacking this experience for a long time to come.

Sister Carmen Teresa's apostolic journey has led her to various missions and diverse ministries. Upon reflection, she discovered that it was the “process of letting go” that allowed her to take that first step of discerning her vocation as an IHM Sister. Interestingly enough, that journey led Sister Carmen back to her alma mater as President/ Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in Miami.

Listening to the stirrings that God placed in her heart allowed Dorene Van Luvender to overcome a serious health challenge and to assume the position of administrator at Camilla Hall. As the first lay administrator of the IHM health care facility, Dorene brings a wealth of experience to this leadership position. Most important, Dorene's love and respect for the sisters' life of service has deepened her conviction that “she is meant to serve at Camilla Hall.”

Our Fideli Corde Award winners all have stories of the significant journeys in their lives. What is singular about those unique paths that they have taken is that it has led them into a realization of the IHM Charism and Mission. Our Congregation has been strengthened and blessed by their presence, good works, and their witness.

According to Rainer Maria Rilke, “The only journey is the one within.” These pages of *On Mission* clearly illustrate the inner resolve and the contemplative groundwork of taking that first step to make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for your devoted participation in the IHM journey.

Sister Mary Ellen Tenny, IHM
General Superior

Take the Word of God with you

As You Go

SUMMER CHALLENGE

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust” (Matthew 5: 43-45).

As these words from the Sermon on the Mount wash over us this summer, consider the universal love that is revealed in this statement. Jesus instructs us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. These challenging words remind us that all people, regardless of cultural labels, are deserving of God’s loving attention. We are called to love as God loves. Jesus models this for us. Jesus did not ask those who came to him to meet certain requirements. He consistently responded to a person’s request or need; no one was turned away.

God loves diversity but we seem to struggle with it. We identify with labels, groups, camps and “the other,” when the truth is we are all children of God. We separate and categorize while Jesus invites all to the banquet, calls everyone to the reign of God. Jesus rewrote the guest list of his time including everyone and we operate out of selectivity, choosing who might be in and who is out. Sometimes our actions and behaviors are far from this Gospel mandate.

God “makes his sun rise on the bad and the good and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” Here is the ideal set before us. We are called to love as God loves. The sunshine and the rain fall upon all of us, there are no favorites, there is no partiality with God. God’s ways are often mysterious to us but God’s love is not. God loves. That is who God is.

On the next sunny day or the next rainy day, why don’t we take time to reflect on how we are doing with letting our sun rise on the bad and the good and our rain fall on the just and the unjust. Let’s spend some time searching our hearts and our attitudes. Why not put our judgments, prejudices and biases aside? Can we begin to imagine ourselves receiving each person who comes to us as Jesus did? No judgment, no exclusions, no enemies, simply openness and love. Let the summer sun and rain be reminders to get us started.



Sister Mary Henrich, IHM,
is Vice President for Mission and
Ministry at Immaculata University
in Malvern, Pennsylvania.

Walking *The Way*

Sister Emily Faubion's Pilgrimage to El Camino de Santiago
(*The Way of St. James*)



Each year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world travel numerous pilgrimage routes leading to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela – the burial site of St. James. Pilgrims make the journey by foot, bicycle, or horseback, covering anywhere from 70 to 500 miles, for spiritual renewal and prayer, for exercise and adventure, or to disconnect from the stresses of everyday life.

Sister Emily Ann Faubion is the Spiritual Life Coordinator at the Barry Robinson Center. This residential treatment facility for youth with mental health disorders is located in Norfolk, Virginia.

THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IS THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE
CATHEDRAL OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IN SPAIN WHERE
THE REMAINS OF ST. JAMES WERE DISCOVERED IN THE 9TH CENTURY.
IT IS BELIEVED THAT ST. JAMES PREACHED THE GOSPEL IN GALICIA,
AND AFTER HIS DEATH, THE CATHEDRAL OF
SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA WAS ERECTED IN HIS HONOR.

The Bible is filled with stories of people taking long journeys. The Blessed Mother traveled a great distance to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, and Jesus made the long journey to Jerusalem prior to his passion and death.

In the fall of 2021, Sister Emily Ann Faubion took a spiritual journey of her own. She made the El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage (or more commonly known as *The Way of St. James*) traveling hundreds of miles to the burial site of St. James the Apostle in northern Spain.

Prior to starting the journey, travelers receive a credential or pilgrim's passport which is stamped along their way. At the end of the journey, pilgrims receive the coveted compostela – their official pilgrim certificate.

On Mission spoke with Sister Emily about her personal experience walking *The Way*.

What led you to the El Camino de Santiago pilgrimage?

I first heard of the Camino de Santiago from my father years ago. It was something he dreamed of doing himself and we talked about it often. After my parents passed in 2013, I felt called to make the

pilgrimage to heal from my grief, but the timing never seemed right. As my Silver Jubilee in religious life approached in 2020, I felt the call to walk again, this time in thanksgiving for my vocation, my parents, and for my own personal intentions.



Let the journey begin!

When did you take the journey and who accompanied you?

I had planned to take the pilgrimage with another IHM sister in April of 2020 to celebrate my Silver Jubilee. Then COVID arrived. Barely a month before we were to leave, the world shut down. While I was disappointed, I did not give up my dream. I kept my eye on the news from Spain. I checked their COVID headlines weekly, sometimes daily, watching the trends to see when the

country would be open for foreign travel. Once this occurred, I purchased my ticket. My pilgrimage began over a year later on September 26, 2021.

Unfortunately, the sister who was to join me could no longer make the journey, so I asked my niece, Gretel, to accompany me. God really does provide!

Where does the journey begin and end?

There are many different routes on the road to Santiago. The most famous and popular is the Frances route. However, Gretel and I chose to travel by

foot on the Camino Del Norte which begins in Irun, Spain. We started our walk after landing at the San Sebastian Airport in Hondarribia. We knew the Camino route was near the airport, so we planned to start walking as soon as we got off the plane. After traveling the Camino Del Norte route, we transferred to the Camino Primitivo. Our journey ended at the Cathedral of Santiago, the burial site of St. James, in the city of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.



Gretel and Sister Emily arrive at their first official albergue de peregrino (pilgrim hostel).

How long was your journey?

The pilgrimage took us 32 days, and we walked approximately 460 miles.

How did you prepare for the journey?

I prepared practically, physically, and spiritually. I spent years reading and researching the Camino, the routes, and other people's experiences. I joined several Camino forums and Facebook groups to learn from people who had first-hand experience with the pilgrimage. I prepared physically by walking at least four times a week. As the pilgrimage got closer, I added mileage and wore my backpack adding weight each week until I could comfortably carry 20 pounds. At least once or twice a week and on weekends, I did a long-distance walk. The

month before my trip, I went out on two "practice" walks of 17 miles to see if I could walk the distance comfortably. Each time I trained, I wore the footwear and clothes I intended to use for the pilgrimage to ensure that everything fit and was comfortable. Spiritually, I prepared by praying through my motivation for going on the pilgrimage. I made sure I had access to all my spiritual resources including using various apps on my journey. I brought a small prayerbook consisting of Congregational prayers, personal prayers, and intentions that family, friends and coworkers entrusted me to carry.

What kind of conditions did you endure along the way?

The conditions were quite varied. We walked on roads, sidewalks, pedestrian paths, along highways, on

the beach, and on rough mountain trails. When we had to cross a waterway, there were usually footbridges, but sometimes we hopped over streams, rocks, or logs. I was grateful that I had my trekking poles with me on my walk. For the most part, our conditions were ideal. We had beautiful fall weather most of the time – perfect conditions for walking. There were about four days of significant rain. On rainy days, we sometimes walked in thick, sticky mud through puddles or through running streams of rainwater. One day, a steady rain became a downpour and we encountered gale force winds that rendered our raingear useless. Thankfully, we had the foresight to line the interior of our packs with plastic bags so our belongings stayed dry even if we didn't.

What part of the journey was the most challenging?

Navigating the international travel was the most challenging and stressful part of my journey. Once



Gretel walks the steep and often rocky terrain of the El Camino.



Sister Emily enjoys the sun and sand as she walks the pilgrimage route on the beach.

we were on the Camino, life was simple and stress free. The most difficult day was when we chose the Hospitales route which is known for its spectacular views and ruins of medieval pilgrim hospitals. After seven kilometers on the route, I slipped, fell and sprained my ankle. Thank goodness I had my trekking poles because we had 20 kilometers more to go! I was able to see a doctor thanks to one of the many “Camino angels” such as Miguel whom we met along the way. He was a Spanish pilgrim we met at another albergue (hostel) and who just happened to be in the town where I was injured. He escorted me to a clinic, helped me communicate with the doctor, and walked me back to the albergue.

Despite it being a challenging and painful circumstance, it was also an incredibly beautiful and rewarding day. We met wonderful people in the albergue and experienced first-hand what a caring community the pilgrims have along the Camino.

What were the unexpected joys of the journey?

There were so many! Most of them were found in the simple things from discovering that your clothes had completely dried overnight to finding a roadside café right when you needed to use the facilities. I was truly able to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the Spanish countryside. It still fills my head when I am quiet. I found great joy in the simplicity and peace of each day – to wake up in the morning and have but a single objective – to get from point A to point B. It was a joy to be present in the moment, to feel every breath and every step, to have long conversations with God and most important to have time to listen to God speak to my heart. The greatest joy came through my encounters with the Spanish people who were so warm, helpful, and hospitable.

How did you feel after completing the journey?

It was a bittersweet moment. I wasn’t ready for the pilgrimage to end. I enjoyed being a pilgrim with the spiritual, physical, and social rhythm of each day. I felt close to creation and to my Creator, and I experienced a deep peace within myself that I hadn’t felt before. It was wonderful to accomplish something so challenging, and I am extremely grateful to God for all the experiences along the way and for keeping us safe.

What did you learn from this experience?

I will be unpacking the lessons of this experience for a long time to come. I learned the importance of keeping things simple; keeping my eyes and heart open to the signs

of God in my life; being grateful; learning to ask for help; being flexible and willing to change course if things don’t go as planned; and realizing that I can’t control everything and that is a good thing! It was a difficult transition to return to “real life” after the pilgrimage. It was hard to go from having one simple goal to accomplish each day to the busyness of the holiday season upon my return. However, what helped me was recalling what it was like to quietly walk with God each day and then to find ways to recreate that for myself. For anyone who is feeling called to a pilgrimage, my advice is don’t wait! Find a way to make it happen because life is too short. On a more practical note, be sure to prepare for the journey physically and remember to take good care of your feet!



Hooray! Sister Emily reaches the end of the journey.

In the Spotlight

Our sisters on mission...

a little background, the promptings of grace, and the spirit that keeps them moving

Sister Carmen Teresa Fernández

President/Principal
Our Lady of Lourdes Academy
Miami, FL

It's always good to come home. Just ask Sister Carmen Teresa Fernández and she'll tell you that "if you stay in sync with God and let him lead you, he'll never lead you astray."

Miami is the place Sister Carmen has called home for most of her life. She grew up in Miami attending public school until the seventh grade before her family sent her and her siblings to Catholic school. It was a move that changed Sister Carmen's life.

MEETING THE IHM SISTERS

"When I first arrived at Epiphany Catholic School in the seventh grade, I met the IHM sisters for the first time. I was struck by their joy and happiness," Sister says. She went on to high school at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, the only all-female school in the archdiocese and a place where the IHM Sisters have served since its founding in 1963. "When I went to Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, I wondered what God might want me to do that could make me as happy as the sisters." Although she felt God calling her to

religious life during her high school years, Sister Carmen says "I was not ready to let go of my 'plans' for my life."



Bobcat pride! Sister poses with the Bobcat ambassadors of Our Lady of Lourdes Academy who give tours of the school for prospective families.

COLLEGE BOUND

But that all changed when she attended Immaculata University. "During my freshman year at

Immaculata, I discovered the courage to follow God's promptings. I felt God calling me to be a sister. Being a sister and giving my life in service to God and to the church was what would get me excited and happy. I began to look forward to the adventure of where God could lead me." So, Sister Carmen entered the postulate the following year. "During my sophomore year of college, I began an eight-year process of study, living the life of a sister to discover if that was where God was calling me."

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD

She continued to follow God's lead teaching in schools in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and ultimately back in her home state of Florida. She returned to her alma mater, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, teaching theology and serving as Director of Campus Ministry before being named the Academy's first president in 2019.

Today, she serves as president and principal and calls her current role a "wonderful privilege and honor to serve my community in this way."

What I love most about Catholic education is having the opportunity to accompany and support others on their journey to God.

Sister oversees the daily functions of the school and ensures that the school remains true to its mission: educating young women to face the future strengthened by their faith, prepared and confident in their abilities to achieve their goals, and committed to their Catholic and American heritages.

COUNTING HER BLESSINGS

Sister Carmen was blessed to have many positive influences throughout her life. “My grandparents lived with us when I was growing up, and they greatly influenced my spiritual development as did my parents and siblings. My teachers in junior high and high school, as well as my sponsor in religious life, Sister Santa Teresa, led me to discover my love for teaching and my religious vocation. I have lived with so many sisters who helped shape the religious woman I am today that I

cannot name them all. I am blessed to have good friends who challenge me to be the best version of myself, a local community who supports me, a school community who encourages me to lead with love, and a family who loves me unconditionally.”

Today, Sister considers it a blessing to be home serving at her alma mater and being close to her family. She also feels blessed to do what she loves in her spare time such as reading, gardening, and DIY projects. But her true passion will always be Catholic education. “What I love the most about Catholic education is having the opportunity to accompany and support others on their journey to God.”



Sister Carmen is happy to be home serving at her alma mater, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in Miami.



Sister works with students on their college applications as they prepare for their future after high school.

Sister Margaret Rose Adams

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

The people closest to us are often the ones who influence us the most. Sister Margaret Rose Adams is no exception. Born, raised, and educated in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, she credits her family and those who educated her along

FAITHFUL INFLUENCE

Because of this faithful influence, Sister Margaret Rose felt drawn to God at a young age. “I wanted to do something special for God,” Sister recalls. “When I was in first grade,

vocation. “The IHM and the Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters taught me. They inspired me and that led to my desire to be a part of a religious community.”

A TRUE PASSION

After graduating from high school, Sister entered the convent at age 18. Through her vocational calling came her true passion, education, and her personal mission statement “*Through Jesus and Mary to instill a love for learning.*” This passion led her to serve for 18 years as a classroom teacher and for 22 years as a principal. These roles prepared her well for her current role as Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, a position which she has held since 2019.



A family affair ... Sister Margaret Rose (pictured right) enjoys time with her sister, Sister Rose Adams (pictured left) and her mom, Rose Adams (center).

the way with playing a pivotal role in her call to religious life. “I had so many good people in my life that lived the Gospel message daily,” says Sister Margaret Rose who grew up in a large family of seven children. “My grandmother and parents were very religious and my older sister, Rose, had entered the IHM Congregation. I often think that my vocation ‘belongs’ to my parents.”

the sister who taught me said that if you really wanted to do something special for God, you could become a nun. As the years went on, I felt a special pull towards God and eventually towards religious life in my junior year of high school.”

Sister attended St. Martin of Tours Elementary School and Nazareth Academy High School in Philadelphia and felt the influence of each religious community on her

Responding to the needs and concerns of principals, teachers, and parents in the elementary schools throughout the archdiocese is no small task, but Sister enjoys the challenge. Her present apostolate is supporting the 31 archdiocesan schools in the city of Philadelphia as well as 16 schools in Bucks County. “I understand how the schools operate, and I really enjoy working with the school communities and sharing my expertise with principals

and teachers. Every day is different in my ministry. Some days I am out in the field; other days, I am in the office responding to phone calls, emails, and any other concerns that pastors, principals, parents, and teachers express. I really enjoy what I do because I feel that I am making a difference.”

INFLUENCING OTHERS

Sister Margaret Rose’s desire to know and serve others has influenced those with whom she has come in contact. She recalls the special times she had with her students during her assignments at Villa Maria Academy Lower School in Malvern, PA and at SS Simon and Jude in West Chester, PA. “Each day during the lunch break I had my ‘walkers’ and I would walk around the building with two to four children. When it was cold or rainy, we would walk inside. It was an opportunity to chat with them just so I could get to know them better,” she says. “I enjoy meeting people, and I find that whenever I move on to another mission, I take a piece of each mission with me.”

FINDING THE JOY

In her spare time, Sister enjoys reading novels and professional books. She loves to spend time at the Jersey shore with her friends and family especially her mom who celebrated her 100th birthday in 2021.

When asked to share a funny experience from her years as an IHM, she reminisces about the time she and the sisters took a boat ride with Monsignor Joseph Smith while missioned at St. Catherine of Siena in Reading, PA. “Another sister and I were charged with getting the boat into the water and holding the ropes while Monsignor backed the boat into the lake. The other sister fell in the lake then said to us “I fell in.” We all laughed so hard! Then she took tissues out of her pocket to dry her glasses which of course were all wet. She told us that she had the last laugh because it was a very hot day on the lake and the water cooled her off.”

Despite the demands, Sister looks at her vocation and ministry with



Sister Margaret Rose visits with students and teachers from St. Katharine Drexel Regional Catholic School in Southampton, PA.

joy. Her advice is to “live with the Lord and value each day because we never know what tomorrow has in store for us, our family, or our friends.” It appears that those who influenced her vocation many years ago, knew what was best. “It is a lot of fun being a nun,” Sister says. Her advice for others? “Come join us!”



Jumping for joy with the fifth grade class at Queen of Angels Regional Catholic School in Willow Grove, PA.

Powerhouse Presence

CAMILLA HALL

Dorene Van Luvender, Administrator

Following God's Call to Camilla Hall



Dorene is the first lay administrator of Camilla Hall.

Many of us have heard and even memorized or framed the comforting words of the prophet Jeremiah: *"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11). Dorene Van Luvender, the first lay administrator of Camilla Hall, can attest that

she has personally experienced the comfort and power of the Lord's plans unfolding.

GOD HAS A PLAN

In 2019, while serving as a regional director of nursing for a retirement facility, Dorene faced many serious health issues. She says, "I kept thinking that God must have a plan for me, and I was not listening and had not figured out the path he wanted me on."

After researching job openings, she saw a posting for an administrator of a nursing home and applied just to see where it would lead. She says, "When I found out the job was for Camilla Hall, I was thrilled ... and felt that I had finally found the path that God intended for me."

AN OFFICIAL START

November 1, 2021 was her first official day at Camilla, and after a few graced weeks of transition working with and learning from former administrator, Sister Anne Veronica Burrows, she assumed full leadership on November 18. In addition to her most recent position as regional director of nursing, she also brings to this leadership role her health care experience as a floor nurse, home care and hospice nurse. Dorene's expertise also includes an academic degree and work experience in accounting and computer science.

What has kept Dorene busy since assuming the role of administrator at Camilla on November 18? Dorene explains her full job description in this way: "In coordination with the three Camilla superiors, we ensure that the sisters residing at Camilla Hall have their physical, spiritual and emotional needs met. I am

responsible for maintaining and upgrading the physical building, managing lay employees, ensuring staffing levels are appropriate, creating the financial budget and managing within that budget.”

Her days are full with both joys and challenges. Getting to know the sisters and lay staff was, and still remains, a challenge as it would be in any new environment. Dorene laughs as she remembers one of her first solo trips through the large building. She felt so good that she had passed every room and seen the sisters who were there, only to be told the next day that she had missed an entire wing!

A RETURN TO ‘NORMAL’

A more serious and major challenge for her and the staff lies in moving the Camilla community forward in this post-COVID world. Reopening dining rooms and solariums so the sisters can enjoy hot meals right

from steam tables every day rather than room trays, involves lots of readjustment of schedules and responsibilities. Bringing back entertainment groups and speakers for more resident engagement is also high on the list. Smooth transitions are only possible because Dorene, the three superiors, and all department heads meet briefly every day to assess the current status, envision next steps, and find the support and insight they need from one another. In conjunction with that peer support, Dorene hopes to plan an off-campus retreat for department heads to assure that they have time and space to also seek the support of the Divine Physician.

FINDING JOY IN HER NEW ROLE

Aside from the inherent challenges, Dorene says without hesitation, “I absolutely love working with the sisters. Their knowledge, education, and insight are astounding. My favorite moments are when I see the joy on their faces, whether they are listening to the St. Aloysius Academy band perform, enjoying an unexpected ice cream treat, or getting a new book to read. Their gratefulness is energizing. I often find thank you cards in my office and it



Dorene (pictured right) gathers with the superiors of Camilla Hall. (Pictured from left to right: S. Christina Joseph Dolan, S. Ann Raymond Welte, and S. Anne Francine Windle.)

is so heartwarming.” Her only fear is that in their gratitude, the sisters may hesitate to let her know of any concerns or problems they are experiencing.

WEARING MANY HATS

And so, this mother of five, ages 15 to 23, who has coached field hockey at St. Denis Elementary School, CYO girls high school basketball, boys and girls middle school basketball, and subbed as a PREP teacher, says that she’s not *meant* to be a teacher but feels she is *meant* to be at Camilla. “The most rewarding thing about my role is that I get to give service to a group of women who have given their life in service. I feel that this is where I am supposed to be, and I hope to be here for many years to come.”



Dorene chats with Camilla resident, S. Maureen Christi VanWinkle.



2022 Fideli Corde Awards

Congratulations to the 2022 Fideli Corde Award recipients! The Fideli Corde (*Faithful Heart*) Award was created by the IHM Congregation to honor lay colleagues who exemplify the IHM charism graces of *love, creative hope, and fidelity* in their life and work. We are proud to honor these individuals who support, share, and advance the mission of the IHM sisters by contributing their time, talent, and/or treasure.



Maria Diana De Souza Ferreira Barclay
Principal
Colegio Villa Maria
Lima, Peru



Eileen Campbell
Development
St. Laurence School
Upper Darby, PA



Gail Chambers
Food Service
Camilla Hall
Malvern, PA



Theresa Jackson
Retired teacher, Volunteer
St. Peter School
Reading, PA



Ann Menna
Deputy Secretary
Office for Catechetical Formation
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA



Alvin Q. Rensbarger
ESL Teacher
IHM Center for Literacy
Philadelphia, PA

The Fideli Corde Award recipients will be honored during a special ceremony in November. The next issue of *On Mission* will highlight the unique contributions each of these individuals has made in exemplifying the graces of love, creative hope, and fidelity to those around them.

Bringing *Vocation Education* to Life



If you venture down the hallway in the IHM Motherhouse in Malvern, PA you will be greeted by the joyful images of the sisters doing what they do best – serving. You will also see inspiring quotes from the Congregation’s patron saints, founders, and General Superiors as well as the Mission Statement of the Congregation. These images which grace the hallway are part

of the Vocation Education Display. This mural installed in October of 2020 was made possible by a grant from the Ambassador’s Fund for Catholic Education. The project is part of the *IHM Vocation Education Program* – an outreach of the IHM Congregation which informs and catechizes children, youth, and young adults about religious life as an IHM. The goal of the program is to use contemporary tools, visual displays, and resource materials to create a culture of vocation education that attracts the attention of millennial young women to assist them in their vocation discernment.

The creation of the mural coincided with the 175th Anniversary of the IHM Congregation. The Vocation Education Display highlights the steadfast dedication of the IHM sisters to the apostolate of Catholic education. It depicts IHM sisters throughout the

Congregation’s history engaged in various apostolates in North and South America. It also includes inspiring words from the IHM founders and a timeline of significant events in the life of the Congregation. What’s unique about the display is that it is interactive. Viewers can download the *IHM Story App* from the App Store that activates special icons on the display to produce audio and animation bringing vocation education to life.

On February 27, 2022, a special Mass and blessing of the display was held at the IHM Motherhouse with Most Rev. Michael J. Fitzgerald, Celebrant, and Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy, Homilist.



Most Rev. Michael J. Fitzgerald joins Sister Mary Ellen Tennity for a special Mass and blessing of the Vocation Education Display.



Companions in Prayer and Ministry

ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT *Welcoming the Stranger*

The Companions in Prayer and Ministry gathered together in person on April 24, 2022 for their annual spring retreat. This year's theme was *Welcoming the Stranger*. Presenters included Sister Mary T. Dooley, ESL Teacher at the IHM Center for Literacy (St. Francis de Sales site) in Philadelphia and Sister Bernadette M. Hiester, Director of the IHM Family Literacy Center in Coatesville. The retreat began with an opening prayer and included time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, dinner, and Eucharistic Liturgy.



IHM Center for Literacy Philadelphia, PA

Sister Mary Dooley shared highlights from her 20 years of teaching English to adult immigrants at the IHM Center for Literacy and helping students prepare for U.S. citizenship. The

center welcomes over 130 individuals from 32 countries many of whom are underemployed and struggling to earn a living. Sister Mary, along with her fellow ESL teachers and a staff of dedicated volunteers, help the students overcome language barriers and find meaningful employment suited to their gifts and talents. The staff also assists students with finding housing for themselves and their families.

IHM Family Literacy Center Coatesville, PA

Sister Bernadette spoke of her work welcoming Hispanic women and children who come to the IHM Family Literacy Center in Coatesville. The center has been a presence in the Coatesville area since 2007 where children, between the ages of three and five, attend preschool. Many come from homes where only Spanish is spoken. The goal is to prepare them to be fluent in English prior to entering kindergarten giving them the confidence they need to succeed at school.

The center is unique in that it provides outreach to children and their mothers. While the children are in preschool, their mothers are taught English so they can read to their children, help them with their homework, shop at a grocery store, or go to a doctor's

appointment without the need of a translator. In addition, they learn valuable parenting skills such as how to develop a schedule for their family and how to budget their money and time.



Welcoming Strangers Everyday

According to Sister Francis Helen, Director of the Companions in Prayer and Ministry Program, "We can welcome the stranger almost every day by greeting someone, looking them in the eye, and seeing them as someone with a purpose. When we welcome a stranger, sometimes we are welcoming an angel in our midst."

For more information, contact

S. Francis Helen Murphy, IHM
1 Our Lady Circle
Malvern, PA 19355
610-647-2160, Ext. 1925
ihmcompanions@gmail.com

Congratulations 2022 Jubilarians!

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

Sister M. Ann Thomas Mullen

Sister Mary Angela Menna

SEVENTY YEARS

Sister Karen Marie Corcoran

Sister Marie Elaine Farabaugh

Sister Marie Arthur Kane

Sister Maureen James Lilly

Sister John Dolores Bruno

Sister Angelica Marie Rockwell

Sister Helene Mary Degres

Sister Maureen Bernadette Roesser

Sister M. Josephine Kase

Sister Maureen Elizabeth Sell

Sister Marita Rose Donnelly

Sister Marie O'Malley

Sister Mary C. Hall

Sister Marie Magdalena Nicolino

Sister Marguerite Mary McAveney

Sister Mary Charlene Whitaker

DIAMOND JUBILARIANS

Sister Joan Marie Sasse

Sister Mary Joseph McAllister

Sister M. Barbara C. Koehler

Sister Mary T. Dooley

Sister Margaret Marie Logrip

Sister M. Ellen Anne Heiler

Sister Mary Roberta Burke

Sister Marie Carroll Isselmann

Sister M. Jeannette Lucey

Sister M. Catherine Jane McErlean

Sister M. Bernard Agnes Smith

Sister Hope Mary Costello

Sister Marie McDonnell

Sister M. Dorothy Thomas

Sister Patricia M. McGrenra

Sister Mary Claire McMahon

Sister Frances Mary D'Alessandro

Sister Mary Sheila McCarthy

Sister M. Patricia Anne Hughes

Sister M. Barbara Ann Browne

Sister Donna Marie Watson

Sister M. Patricia Ann Cabrey

Sister Anna Maria Cranston

Sister Victoria M. Ferraro

Sister Jean Miriam Alfonsi

Sister M. Patricia McDermott

GOLDEN JUBILARIANS

Sister M. Linda Carol Taber

Sister Mary Catherine Chamberlain

Sister M. Teresa Ballisty

Sister M. Shaun Thomas Callahan

Sister Anne Marie Stegmaier

Sister M. Carol Anne Couchara

Sister Regina A. Elinich

Sister Joan Marie Ames

Sister Kathleen M. Brown

SILVER JUBILARIAN

Sister Maureen Ann Donati

*Recognize a name? Would you like to send a congratulatory note? Send your message to
IHM Mission Advancement + 230 IHM Drive + Malvern, PA 19355 or
missionadv@ihmimm.org*

Sippin' for the Sisters

Thank you to those who joined us on May 1st for tea. Our first annual *Sippin' for the Sisters* tea party fundraiser was a huge success! Over 120 attendees gathered for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun. Guests enjoyed music provided by the Bishop Shanahan Jazz Band while they sipped tea, enjoyed tea sandwiches and desserts, and had the chance to win some fabulous prizes. Best of all, proceeds supported Camilla Hall. We are grateful for those who joined us. *We hope to see you again next year!*



Villa Maria by the Sea Update

Good news! Construction on the new IHM retreat center, *Villa Maria by the Sea*, in Stone Harbor, NJ is ahead of schedule. The new retreat center will replace the original structure which had been a visible presence in Stone Harbor since 1937. The original three-story beachfront retreat center was demolished in May of 2021 to make way for a smaller, more efficient, and ADA-compliant facility which the sisters can use year-round. On April 18, a special ceremony was held as the cross which will adorn the top of the chapel was blessed and lifted in place. Construction of the new IHM retreat center is expected to be completed in the fall of 2022.

Mary, Star of the Sea, pray for us!

New Science Pavilion at Immaculata

Immaculata University continues to expand with the addition of the new Parsons Science Pavilion, a 15,500 square foot facility to accommodate the growing number of students majoring in science-related programs. The groundbreaking ceremony, held in April of 2021, was attended by Jerry Parsons, chairman of Communications Test

Design, Inc. (CTDI), whose family, along with other donors, supported the project. Through their generosity, the new building offers additional space for cutting-edge research-based courses as well as modern laboratory spaces with state-of-the-art technology and simulation equipment. The Parsons Science Pavilion is scheduled to open in the fall of 2022.



Dwelling now in light, yet ever near



S. Mary Charlene Whitaker
5.19.22



S. Regina Fidelis Colavechio
5.3.22



S. Janice M. Shaw
5.1.22
(*S. M. William Thomas*)



S. Elizabeth Marie Welding
4.23.22
(*S. M. Kevin Francis*)



S. Kathleen Dolores Keenan
4.15.22



S. M. Patricia Anne Considine
4.10.22
(*S. M. Joseph Patrice*)



S. Barbara Maria Bamberger
4.5.22



S. Mary K. King
3.28.22
(*S. Mary Kevin*)



S. Marita Louise McGee
2.11.22



S. Maria Patris Hogan
2.11.22



S. Mary Winifred Feeney
2.5.22
(*S. Maria Joseph*)



S. Marianne Evans
1.30.22
(*S. M. James Rita*)



S. M. Elizabeth Jane Murray
1.17.22
(*S. Virgo Fidelis*)



S. M. Rita Charles Smith
1.17.22

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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.

Contributors to this issue

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Sister Joanne Ralph

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.



**Camilla Hall Oktoberfest
is back!**

Outdoor and in-person!

Mark your calendar for
Saturday, October 15, 2022

AMAZONSMILE

Join the many online shoppers who are earning valuable dollars for Camilla

Hall by shopping online at **smile.amazon.com**. When shopping, a percentage of your purchase will benefit our Powerhouse of Prayer, Camilla Hall.

Remember to always log on at smile.amazon.com

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Go Green – Go Online

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CLICK ... the **DONATE** button (*top of homepage*)

IT'S THAT EASY!

... and *thank you for your contribution!*