Delegates and Observers to Gather for First Pre-Chapter Meeting

One hundred and fifty-two delegates and dozens of observers will gather in the Theresa Maxis Conference Center for the first 2010 Pre-Chapter meeting, February 28 and March 1. Both meeting days will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. In addition to discussing the type of Chapter experience the congregation members will choose, the group will consider the trends and current realities that were surfaced throughout the 2008 Regional Meetings. The business of the meeting will include an affirmation of the dates selected for Pre-Chapter and Chapter meetings, the decision to position the Chapter of Elections before or after the Chapter of Affairs, the election of a Chapter Planning Committee, and several other business items.

Sister Mary Mollison, CSA, from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, will facilitate the Pre-Chapter and Chapter meetings. All members of the congregation are encouraged to participate in Pre-Chapter and Chapter meetings by their presence, prayer, and support.

Communal Reconciliation Service March 11

On Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service at the IHM Center. Several priests will be present to participate in the prayer and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sister Dolores Banick, IHM, will give the reflection. All IHM Sisters and IHM Associates are invited, as well as colleagues, friends, and family.

Three New IHM Associates Commissioned

On February 8, 2009, in the chapel of the Pascucci Family Our Lady of Peace Residence, Sister Mary Persico commissioned three IHM Associates. During the commissioning ceremony, Joanne Ligorio, Mary Louise Searing, and Francis X. Walsh inscribed in their covenants a desire to live the IHM Core Values and to continue to commit their lives to the mission of Jesus. Both Mary Lou and Frank work for LIFE Geisinger, and Joanne serves as a part-time receptionist for Our Lady of Peace Residence.

Pictured L-R: Sr. Jean Louise Bachetti, IHM, Francis X. Walsh, Sr. Mary Persico, IHM, Mary Louise Searing, Joanne Ligorio and Sr. Linda Anne Greenberg, IHM.
In an announcement made by the Elms College Board of Trustees on February 6, Sr. Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., was named the 10th president of Elms College, Chicopee, Massachusetts. Elms College is the only comprehensive four-year co-educational Catholic College in Western Massachusetts.

“We are pleased to bring someone with Sr. Mary’s depth of experience to Elms at this point in our history,” said Linda K. C. Mansfield, a 1977 alumna and chair of the Elms College Board of Trustees. “The search committee sought a campus and community leader with expertise in strategic planning, fund raising, and financial management who could embrace the specialness of the college’s mission. Sr. Mary brings all these qualities to us.”

“For more than 80 years the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the faculty and staff of Elms College have been leaders in providing Catholic higher education in this region,” said Sr. Mary Reap. “It is an honor to be appointed as the 10th president and to become a part of this great legacy, where the teaching of values and the achievement of high standards of educational quality are so clearly lived out. I look forward with great joy to the opportunity to join the Elms community in this important work.”

Sister Mary will begin serving as Elms College President on July 1, 2009.

First-grader Amy Bull doesn’t know it, but she’s the reason many unwanted babies have been placed in loving, adopted homes. Amy has Down Syndrome as well as heart problems that often accompany the genetic condition. At age 7, she’s already had three open-heart surgeries.

After she was born, her father, Savannah attorney Birney O’Brian Bull, knew he needed a job with more flexible hours so he and his wife, Deborah First, a Savannah College of Art & Design professor, could care for their special needs child.

They also have a healthy teenage daughter, Betsy.

So Bull quit his job as staff attorney for a local judge and opened his own practice specializing in adoption law.

Five years later, Bull has made promoting the choice of adoption - over the choice of abortion - more than just a law career. Adoption has become his ministry. As a result, he’s helped hundreds of babies and children get legally adopted into loving homes - children who may have been aborted otherwise.

Like all ministries, Bull’s isn’t without some spiritual help. His assistant for the past year is a nun, Sr. Mary Ann Lang. She handles public relations and calls from birth mothers who contact the practice seeking information on finding an adoptive family for their baby. Bull advertises his practice in the Yellow Pages under abortion alternatives.

Their is a practical form of anti-abortion activism that signifies more than holding up placards at rallies or protesting abortion clinics. It’s about decreasing the demand for abortion, rather than focusing on the legislation.

Their goal is for birth mothers facing an unwanted pregnancy to make an informed decision, to know they have more choices than abortion. They can, instead, give their child and another family the gift of adoption.

Nationally, only one percent of unwed mothers choose adoption, Bull said. “Ninety-nine out of 100 unwed mothers reject adoption,” Bull said. It’s a mindset Bull, who converted to Catholicism in law school, and Sr. Lang hope to change through their ministry. A ministry that wouldn’t have happened, chances are, had Amy not come into the world with special needs.

Sr. Therese O’Rourke was named as a trustee to Friendship House at the 137th annual meeting of the board of directors.

Sr. Therese is a member of the National Catholic Health East Sponsors Council and a member of the board of the Pennsylvania Association of Resources for People with Mental Retardation.
Students Thank IHMs for Years of Service

Students from Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton visited the IHM Sisters at Our Lady of Peace Residence on February 5 as part of their Catholic Schools Week events. Representatives from 10 schools attended liturgy with the Sisters after which they presented Sr. Mary Persico with a plaque to honor the sisters for their commitment and service to Catholic education. Following lunch, the students visited the sisters in the dining room and those in each household and presented them with small gifts and greeting cards made by students in their schools.

Another project undertaken by grade schools in the diocese during Catholic Schools Week was the collection of bath towels for distribution to the needy through agencies such as Friends of the Poor. Sr. Maryalice Jacquinot coordinated the collection with the help of Kathy Hanlon, System Director for the Holy Cross Regional School System.

St. Joseph’s Center Opens New Community Home

A new St. Joseph’s Center community home on Olyphant Avenue in Scranton opened December 16, becoming home to four residents of St. Joseph’s Center.

The Olyphant Avenue home is the eleventh community home for St. Joseph’s in Lackawanna County. It is the fourth home to be built by St. Joseph’s and features an “open floor plan” to accommodate free movement of wheelchairs in spacious common areas as well as private bedrooms.

An open house for the new community home was held for neighbors and friends February 3, 5, and 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pictured are L-R standing Therese Chamberlain, LPN and Ann Rink, administrator of Community Programs. Seated are Felicia “Fe” and Sr. Therese O’Rourke, IHM.
Laura Bush Visits Little Flower School in Bethesda, Md.

In her last school visit as the First Lady of the United States, First Lady Laura Bush visited Little Flower School in Bethesda on January 13, which this past fall received the U.S. Department of Education’s Blue Ribbon Schools Award in recognition of its academic achievement as one of America’s most successful schools.

"This is a wonderful day for Little Flower...This is really a Blue Ribbon event and a wonderful looking forward" to the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, said Sister Rosemaron Rynn, the principal of the school, after the First Lady had arrived and students were gathered in the school hall. Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally the last week in January.

Speaking to the Little Flower students, First Lady Laura Bush said for the last eight years, one of the things she has been most interested in is education, and she mentioned that she was once a teacher and a librarian. The First Lady said during her time in the White House, she has visited schools in the United States and foreign countries, but she said, “Today is my very last school visit while my husband is president.” The First Lady said, “...I wanted to end my school visit with a terrific school like Little Flower.”

The First Lady said Catholic Schools Week is a time to talk to leaders about the importance of Catholic education. She noted that many of the first schools in the United States were Catholic schools. The First Lady said the other reason she was visiting Little Flower was because it was chosen as a Blue Ribbon School.

The First Lady brought the students children’s books. “These were all in my office, and now they’re going to be in your library,” she told them. The First Lady was then ushered to the music room, where the kindergarten, first, and second grade students sang her a song they had prepared for their Christmas concert.

Anniversary Celebration Remembers IHM Sisters

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Asbury Park, NJ, celebrated its 85th anniversary on November 29, 2008. Two hundred twenty-five guests, current and former students and teachers enjoyed the celebration that began with liturgy. Following was a festive dinner in the school cafeteria. Displays of memorabilia and photographs decorated the room, many of them of IHM Sisters who served at the school from 1934 to 1990.

Sr. Christina Aldarelli, a graduate of the school, who now serves as DRE at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, attended the celebration. She spoke of the many former students who voiced their gratitude for their IHM teachers and the fine education they received at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.

New Circle of Grace is Formed

In the middle of a cotton field in rural North Carolina a Circle of Grace gathers at Holy Trinity Parish Home. As “friends on the journey” Sisters Mary Hugh Placilla and Kieran Williams (seated) share their faith stories and those of the congregation with (left to right) Jennifer Neilson, Phyllis Hummel and Debra Hardison, who in turn reveal the face of God through their own sacred stories.
Book Review

by Cathleen Lewis
Reviewed by Sr. Mary Joan Kelleher, IHM

This is the story of a mother, her autistic child, and the music that transformed their lives. Rex is a blind, autistic child who couldn’t walk or talk. On his second birthday, he was given a piano key board that changed his life and his mother’s. He displayed a musical gift that was beyond comprehension.

At a Halloween party, Rex dressed as Paul McCartney and played “Let It Be” on his keyboard. Richard Norton, a neighbor, heard him and invited him to his home to play on a real piano.

Meeting Richard brought a big change into Rex’s life. Rex mastered the piano immediately, creating his own melodies. Richard played and Rex repeated what he heard. Then, at Richard’s request, Rex rendered songs in different styles. He went from Mozart to Chopin to a Russian dance. All Richard could say was, “He is a savant! A prodigious musical savant!”

Rex’s mother, Cathleen, is a remarkable woman. She says, “I was living a very busy life, not knowing I was in the dark until I had Rex. But living with Rex and listening to his music brought me to a realization that God was present in our lives. When God gave me Rex, he showed me that by living my life with Rex that joy was inside.” She finishes, “Rex is my joy and I wanted what he had.”

Cathleen struggled to improve life for Rex, both educationally and socially. Her struggle to improve his life made her realize others needed help also. Therefore, she went back to school and became an education specialist in visual impairments. She says, “Rex’s birth gave me purpose and now that has led me to a new life purpose - bringing the miracle of how I’ve lived with Rex to help others in the same way.

Christian Communities Gathering Held at IHM Center

The Christian Communities Gathering of Northeast Pennsylvania (Diocesan Commission on Ecumenism/Interfaith) was held at the IHM Center on February 19. Ministers and representatives of regional Christian churches were present for prayer in chapel beginning at 10:30 a.m. followed by a meeting and concluded with lunch in the Theresa Maxis Conference Center. Sr. Maryla Farfour hosted the event and has been a member of the group since 1999.
Dear Friends in Christ,

On Wednesday, February 11, the Church celebrates the World Day of the Sick. This special day reminds us to pray for all those who are sick and recognize all those who minister to the sick as pastoral caregivers, healthcare workers, and caregivers.

One of the tragedies of aging, illness, and loss is a sense of isolation. This may be due to changes caused by the illness or loss, to living in a more institutional setting, moving away from a familiar home or parish to live with family members, or to being unable to participate actively in church or community events. Maintaining connections with family, friends, and the faith community or reconnecting with them is a very important part of who we are all through life’s journey.

Our responsibilities as a Catholic community to care for the sick and homebound are reflected in St. Peter’s mission statement. All of us share this responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in need and to connect them to this church community. Last year expansion of this ministry was one of our parish goals. We trained additional extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and had four training sessions for parishioners to become pastoral volunteers.

The visits we made and the small, ordinary things we do have a significant impact on others’ lives when they are in the midst of tremendous transition and challenge to their bodies, minds, and spirits. Our lives have also been profoundly influenced by those to whom we have ministered. I have often been touched by their faith and endurance, the depth of their sharing, and their deep gratitude for the simple blessings of each day and our ministry of compassion and connection.

Henri Nouwen reflects on this in *Aging: the Fulfillment of Life*: “Our ministry to others is not so much what we do for them but how we allow the elderly to enter into the center of our lives... In order to care for another who is aging, we must first of all enter into close contact with our own aging self.”

As we celebrate World Day of the Sick on February 11 and celebrate the expansion of this ministry in our parish, I invite each of you to reflect on these questions:

- How do I look at the aging process? What issues, stereotypes, positive images affect how I care for myself? how I care for others?
- How do I view suffering in the context of my faith? What spiritual resources do I draw on in times of suffering and loss?
- What kind of visitor or caregiver would I want if I were ill, older, homebound, dying?
- How do I deal with the issues of loss and mortality in my own life? How does this impact how I interact with others?
- How have my life experiences shaped my ability to listen to, affirm, and compassionately journey with others?
- How can I be a bridge between St. Peter’s faith community and those who are sick, elderly, and homebound?

Books for reading and reflection:
*The Four Things That Matter Most: A Book about Living* (Ira Byock, M.D.)
*An Uncertain Inheritance: Writers on Caring for Family* (Nell Casey)
*Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging* (Kathleen Fischer)
*Harvest Us Home: Good News as We Age* (Rea McDonnell, SSND and Rachel Callahan, CSC)
*Aging: the Fulfillment of Life* (Henri Nouwen and Walter J. Gaffney)
*My Stroke of Insight* (Jill Bolte Taylor, Ph.D.)

Annals Important to IHM History

As our IHM “story” continues to increase in significance the IHM Archives is still accepting 2007-2008 annals. Annals may be sent electronically to archives@sistersofihm.org or in hard copy form to:

Congregation Archivist
IHM Center
2300 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18509

Some find it advantageous to compile annals as they occur. Also, eighty-seven percent of Mission Group minutes were received in the Archives for the fall 2008 meetings. The goal for the spring 2009 meetings is 100%.

- Sr. Anitra Nemotko
Recent Deaths
Two generous benefactors recently passed away. Helen B. Milo from Greensboro, North Carolina, died on December 16, 2008. Helen served the congregation for many years as a member of the Advisory Council for Development. Gloria Vacca Mahoney, formerly Sister Danielle, died on November 26, 2008, in Pompano Beach, Florida. Gloria’s generosity and concern for the IHM Sisters extend beyond her death. Gloria named the congregation as a beneficiary of her estate. We are grateful to Gloria and Helen for their financial support throughout their lives. Please remember the Milo and Mahoney families in your prayers.

Grant Received
The Congregation recently received a grant for $2,700 from the FSC Foundation. The grant was requested for supplies and materials for the new ESL program directed by Sister Joan Thompson. The FSC Foundation is sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers. The purpose of the foundation is “to expand the three-hundred-year old Lasallian tradition of serving the poor through education.”

Christmas Appeal
The Christmas direct mail appeal sent to family and friends in November has generated donations of more than $126,000 for the retirement fund. The appeal featured Sister Lucy McGrath and included a specially designed prayer card with Sister Lucy’s original artwork. Many donors responded to the appeal with generous donations, requests for prayers and, most of all, heartfelt appreciation for the IHM Sisters who have touched their lives. Please remember to pray for the special intentions of our benefactors.

Moving with the Spirit
Moving with the Spirit is the theme for the gathering of members of three congregations – Sisters of St. Casimir, Sisters of Cyril and Methodius, and Sisters of IHM, Scranton - on October 10 and 11, 2009, at the IHM Center. Tracing the Spirit was a theme from previous gatherings: October, 2003 at the IHM Center in Scranton and at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Cyril and Methodius in Danville. In the summer of 2005, the three congregations met again, this time in Chicago at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir.

All are invited to participate in the events of October 10-11, 2009, at the IHM Center, Scranton.
New Life Seeds
from Sr. Ruth Harkins, IHM

Did You Know?
The Washington Theological Union was awarded a two million dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment “Making Connections” initiative for its project entitled *Eye On The Horizon*. The project was designed “to foster programs that energize and expand existing efforts to call a new generation of young people to the Christian ministry, educate them well, and nurture excellence among practicing clergy.” The “Eye on the Horizon” project is composed of five separate, yet interrelated initiatives:

1. “Not for the Faint of Heart” — Identifying New Models of Leadership
2. “Come and See” — Interactive Web Portal for Discernment Process
3. “Faith Happens” — Calling Forth Volunteers
4. “Leave a Legacy” – Making Connections Parish to Campus to Parish
5. “Unleashing the Spirit” – Educating and Sustaining Leaders

Upcoming Events

*Come to the Water* - April 18 at the IHM Center
*IHM Summer Service Trip: Mother Seton Academy, Baltimore, July 13-19*

Flea Market

Make your contributions to Marywood’s Flea Market to be held at Marywood, Latour Conference Room in Nazareth Hall (formerly the Crystal Room) Friday, *March 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.* All proceeds will benefit the Service Trip to Guatemala. Sr. Donna Korba is coordinating the trip along with Campus Ministry. Donated items for the flea market may be dropped off at Campus Ministry in the Swartz Center (former Marian Convent) or at the IHM Center in the stairway near the back elevator.

**Vocation Prayer**

Loving God, you plant the seeds of vocation deep in our being. Help us give proper attention and care to our call so our true vocation will bear fruit in the Church and in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

**IHM Congregation Vitae**

(As of February 23, 2009)

- Final Profession - 463
- Temporary Profession - 5
- Transition Program - 1
- Novices - 1

**IHM Forward**

*Save the Date*
Weekend Gathering of IHM Sisters Age 59 and Younger
March 27-29, 2009

**New on the IHM Webpage**

Falling in Love (Journey): [http://ihmnew.marywood.edu/1.WhoWeAre/1IHMJourney.html](http://ihmnew.marywood.edu/1.WhoWeAre/1IHMJourney.html)
Motherhouse Fire: [http://ihmnew.marywood.edu/2.OurHistory/IHMMissionStoriesKeenan/Motherhousefire.htm](http://ihmnew.marywood.edu/2.OurHistory/IHMMissionStoriesKeenan/Motherhousefire.htm)
From the Finance Committee

Some Suggestions for Savings

1. Carpool whenever possible
2. Never go to a car dealership for ordinary car maintenance
3. Order bank checks from Sunday paper advertisements, not from CBIS
4. Disconnect a second phone line if not used frequently
5. Consider disconnecting land line if you have a cell phone
6. Disconnect Caller ID or other costly services
7. Make it a goal to decrease the electric bill by 2%; try to cut back on all utilities where possible.
8. Review cable contracts for savings
9. Prepare nutritious vegetarian meals from time to time
10. Shop for bargains and look for specials when food shopping
11. Go paperless, if possible, receiving Congregation communication on line. Archive files and only print what absolutely necessary
12. Borrow DVDs from local libraries FREE of charge instead of paying at vendors
13. Consider creative low-cost annual retreats

IHM Directory Update

Online searchable directory
www.sistersofihm.org
Updated weekly!

Jubilarians Celebrated in Scranton Diocese

At a Pontifical mass held at St. Peter’s Cathedral on February 8, all women and men religious jubilarians who live and serve in the diocese were celebrated for their dedication and service. The following IHM jubilarians were celebrated:

Sr. St. Monica Costello
Sr. Helene Fee
Sr. Carole Griffin
Sr. Sarah Ann Holmes
Sr. Margaret Mary Kane
Sr. Ann McLaughlin
Sr. Joan Marie Thompson
Sr. Virginia Waters
Sr. Adrian Barrett
Sr. Lucille Bohn
Sr. Casimir Bougher
Sr. Noralene Calpin
Sr. Mary Barbara Campbell
Sr. Mary Louise Conlon
Sr. Helen Hemmer
Sr. Michaelene Macedonio
Sr. St. Rita O’Boyle
Sr. Ann Marie O’Brien
Sr. Eamon O’Neill
Sr. Electa Schmidt
Sr. Isabel Schratwieser
Sr. Marianne Addy
Sr. deRicci Baker
Sr. Francine Connolly
Sr. Maurice Hartnett
Sr. Melissa Hester
Sr. Gabriel Kane
Sr. Coleman Nee
Sr. Venard Ryan
Sr. Carol Baden
Sr. Greta Collins
Sr. Elizabeth Grace
Sr. Eunice Corcoran
Sr. Lucy McGrath
Sr. Emerita Gasper
Sr. Maria Magdala O’Boyle

Notes of Gratitude

Jim O’Neill, the nephew of Sr. Elise Frank, wishes to thank all the sisters for all the Masses and expressions of sympathy received by the family.

Sister Dolorosa Loughney expresses her heartfelt thanks to all who offered sympathy on the death of her sister, Mary Dooley. Sister is most grateful for the Masses, prayers, condolences and phone calls.

Sister Nancy Elder, the Elder and Maddox families extend our deepest gratitude for the overwhelming prayers and support on the death of Alma Maddox. Alma will long be missed but we hold onto the wonderful memories and stories of her time with us. Your generous prayer offerings are gratefully appreciated.

Sr. Mary Sheehan
sheehan@sjy.org

IHM Center
Hospitality Requests

Must be made with
Sr. St. Mel Wright
Call in advance: 570-330-0210
E-mail: wrightm@sistersofihm.org
God’s covenant
has been fulfilled with our
Sr. Maureen Therese Harun, IHM

this day, February 6, 2009
in the 58th year
of her religious profession

Sr. M. Ivan Pollock, IHM

do this day, February 17, 2009
in the 71st year
of her religious profession

Dental Plan Update

The congregation’s self funded dental plan administered by Delta Dental is a “Delta Dental PPO/Premier” plan. IHM Sisters who are enrolled in the congregation’s dental plan can see this caption on their Delta Dental ID cards. The congregation’s plan is a comprehensive plan designed to allow sisters the freedom to access the dentist of their choice, but at the same time, allow the congregation to benefit from the discounts realized when sisters choose an in-network provider.

It may be helpful for sisters to picture the congregation plan in three tiers. Regardless of which “tier” of the congregation’s plan a sister chooses to participate in, at no time should a dental provider require payment up-front. All claims should be submitted to Delta first.

- Tier I-Non-Participating Providers. (Out-of-Network) Non-participating providers have the ability to file a claim with Delta Dental. In this scenario, it is Delta’s policy to reimburse the member (sister) at the rate of the premier plan (see Tier II). Delta will not send the payment directly to the provider. **Non-participating providers do not have to accept the Delta Dental rate and may “balance bill” the member (sister) for the portion of the bill that Delta did not cover.**

- Tier II-Premier Providers. (In-Network) Premier providers are under contract with Delta to accept a discounted rate established by Delta. Premier providers will file claims directly with Delta and Delta will pay the claims in full directly to the dentist. Sisters using the Premier portion of the plan will not be responsible for a “balance bill” as described in Tier I.

- Tier III-PPO Providers. (In-Network) PPO Providers are also under contract with Delta to accept a discounted rate established by Delta. The discount rate under the PPO plan is even greater than the discount realized under the Premier plan. PPO Providers will file claims with Delta and Delta will pay the claims in full directly to the dentist. Sisters using the PPO portion of the plan will not be responsible for a “balance bill” as described in Tier I.

The provider directory that was included with your dental card was not an all-inclusive list but rather a random sampling of the providers in your area in the PPO plan, the plan that offers the greatest discount. If a sister has a question on whether her dental provider is currently in the plan, she can simply ask the dentist, contact Delta Customer Service at 800-932-0783 or use the search tools at www.deltadental.org

It is very important that each sister present her Delta card to her dental provider so that the dentist’s office can file her claim!

Evenings of Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
March 11
April 22
May 13
All are welcome!

Remind you **Do** Need a Professional Photo!

Make an appointment at ANY JCPenney Portrait Studio
Go to: www.jcpportraits.com

Membership Number: 958524
Welcome to the IHM Spiritual Renewal Center
March 4-7 Federation of Christian Resources Group
March 28 & 29 Companions on the Journey Mission Group
Praying the Signs in the Gospel of John
Tuesday, February 10
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Spend time in prayer and reflection using the Gospel of John. Come for this day and let the Gospel open doors to wonderful insights into the divinity of Jesus. There will be time to hear about the signs of Jesus and time for personal prayer.
Lunch will be provided.
Lenten Series: Can You Watch One Hour with Me?
Tuesdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at the Spiritual Renewal Center, Cresco
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at the IHM Center (Heritage Room)
This hour will be a sacred time for reflection. The hour will be comprised of a presentation, time for quiet and group prayer.
Dealing with Adversity
Following the Way of the Cross
Friday, March 20 - Saturday, March 21
Arrive: 7:00 p.m.
Depart: 2:00 p.m.
Spend this Lenten overnight reflecting and journaling about your relationship with Christ and his teachings. In his passion, Jesus showed us the way to deal with our everyday lives. We are to live out his example as the fruit of our contemplation. Sister Gloria will lead a contemplative process on the Stations of the Cross.
Holy Week Retreat
April 5-12
Arrive: Palm Sunday 4:00 p.m.
Depart: Easter Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Spending time in quiet and prayer is an excellent way to prepare for the Paschal Mysteries that will be celebrated at the end of the week.
Triduum Retreat
April 9-12
Father Richard Loch will be the celebrant for the liturgies as we commemorate the Last Supper, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the Resurrection.
Earth Day of Prayer
Tuesday, April 21
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
How often do we view the Earth as one of God’s precious creations? Nature is one of the many ways that God is revealed to us. Come and experience through music, image and word the various ways that nature draws us to reconnect to God.
Lunch will be provided.
Grief Support Group
Monday Evenings: April 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18, 25 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
This six week course is designed to meet the needs of those who are grieving, no matter when the loss occurred. The course will provide an understanding of the grieving process together with techniques, activities and strategies to assist the participants.
Deadline for registration is April 13.
St. Cyril Spiritual Center
Danville, PA
www.sscm.org
570-275-3581
March 13-15
Directed Prayer Weekend
Judith Bayer & Sr. Jean Marie, SSMC
April 3-5
Directed Prayer Weekend
Sr. Jean Marie, SSMC
May 1-8
Directed Retreat for Sisters
Carol Marozzi, SSJ
Maris Stella Retreat Center
Harvey Cedars, NJ
609-494-1152
Journey to the Cross with Mary
April 3 – 5
Rediscover Sabbath Time
March 27 – 29
It is time again to plan ahead for summer vacation. Three (3) vacation spots are available for the use of the IHM Sisters for the Summer of 2009.

Calls for reservations may be made beginning Monday, March 30, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to Anne Marie Wheeler at 570-342-6850.

Callers are asked to give their FIRST, SECOND and THIRD CHOICES using the codes provided.

N - Cottage at Newton Lake, Pennsylvania
FI - House at Fenwick Island, Delaware
C - House at Lake Carey, Pennsylvania

Sisters whose request can be accommodated will receive information about arrival times, departure times, keys and other information by the 4th of May. Sisters whose requests cannot be honored, will be notified and offered an alternative if available.

Current Cost for Fenwick Island is $225.00 per week

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>June 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>June 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>June 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>July 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>July 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>July 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>July 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>August 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>August 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>August 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>August 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>August 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 6</td>
<td>August 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>August 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>August 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>August 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>August 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>August 27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>August 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>September 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>September 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sr. Adrian Barrett, “Sister Sneakers,” was featured on WVIA’s State of Pennsylvania program in an hour-long interview with a live audience of nearly 100 people. The show aired on Thursday, February 19, in celebration of Sister Adrian’s 80th birthday and her more than thirty years of service to the people of Lackawanna County through Friends of the Poor. Bill Kelly, the host of the show, said in his introductory remarks that “Sister Adrian Barrett is a legendary and tiny lady who for a lifetime has lived and loved serving the poor. There’s really only one Sister Adrian Barrett; you should meet her. She’s retiring at 80 and we’ll celebrate her remarkable life.” Pictured above are some of the sisters who joined many others in the WVIA studio audience who have been touched by the love and life of Sister Adrian.

Jubilee Celebration in Raleigh, NC

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated Saturday, February 7, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh, NC, in recognition of the Jubilee Anniversaries of five women religious serving in the Diocese of Raleigh. The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge was the celebrant with Bishop Emeritus F. Joseph Gossman concelebrating. Sister Carol Loughney, celebrating her 50th anniversary, offered a reflection on behalf of the five Jubilarians, noting that her life is sustained by prayer and the love of friends, family and community. Read Sr. Carol’s reflection at:


Jubilarians Celebrated in Archdiocese of Washington

In a special liturgy held on February 8 in celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life, IHM Jubilarians Sister Mary Dawson, Sister Jacquelyn Donohue, and Sister Mary Mercy Gilbart were honored for their years of service at the 10:00 a.m. mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC.