



Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Fall 2022

Dear Family and Friends,

*"Most Holy Trinity, I adore you! My God, my God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament"
(Prayer taught to the Fatima children by the Angel of Portugal)*

As Catholics we believe in angels. Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church teach us all about the angels. Among the Nine Choirs of Angels are the guardian angels, from among whom, in God's great love and care for mankind, He has assigned to each of us our own, individual guardian angel to guard and protect, guide, command and admonish us. Because our guardian angels bear the authority of God, we owe them our reverence and obedience. Together, angels and men fight the enemies of God. We only need to think of St. Michael casting Lucifer out of Heaven. "If we fight for His kingdom with His angels, the True, Almighty and Faithful GOD will grant us victory, protect us, revenge us and take us into His heavenly dwelling. The guardian angels shall lead us to heaven!" (Confraternity of the Guardian Angels, Innsbruck)

We look to the angels, our most faithful companions in this life, for their example in fighting the good fight, especially through their worship and adoration of Jesus, including Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In 1916, it was the Angel of Portugal that appeared to the children of Fatima three times, teaching them prayers of reparation for sins against the Eucharist. On his third visit to the children, he appeared with a Chalice and a Host. With both Chalice and Host suspended in air, he knelt prostrate, as did the children and prayed:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences by which He is offended, and by the infinite merits of his Most Sacred Heart and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

Following their adoration, the Angel of Portugal gave Holy Communion to the children.

It is interesting to note that the Feast of the Angel of Portugal is celebrated each year on June 10, and not only predates the apparitions at Fatima, but is still celebrated today with specific prayers in the new missal for the church in Portugal. Perhaps we need such a feast celebrating the Angel of the United States?

This past June, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the **Bishops of the United States** proclaimed a National Eucharistic Revival in our country to restore understanding and devotion to the Mystery of the Eucharist. This is a three-year initiative with a mission to "renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist." (Eucharist Revival website)

In this year of the Eucharist and in the spirit of our National Eucharistic Revival, the Sisters will be inviting school children of the diocese, and all our friends and family to pray with us at our new shrine and sculpture, of the Angel of Portugal and the three Fatima Children. We hope by May 13, 2023, the shrine and statue will be completed, ready for groups to visit and learn more about the Eucharist and the Fatima message. Please join us next year on May 13th, and meanwhile, let us pray, with our eyes fixed on Christ, in companionship with our guardian angel.

Almighty and Eternal God, grant us the help of Thy heavenly hosts, that through them we may be guarded against the threatening assault of the wicked adversary and that through the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of the Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary, we may be freed from all needs and be once again able to serve Thee in peace. Through Him, our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen. (Confraternity of the Guardian Angels)

In the Heart of Our Mother,

Mother Mary Magdalene . IHM

Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM
General Superior

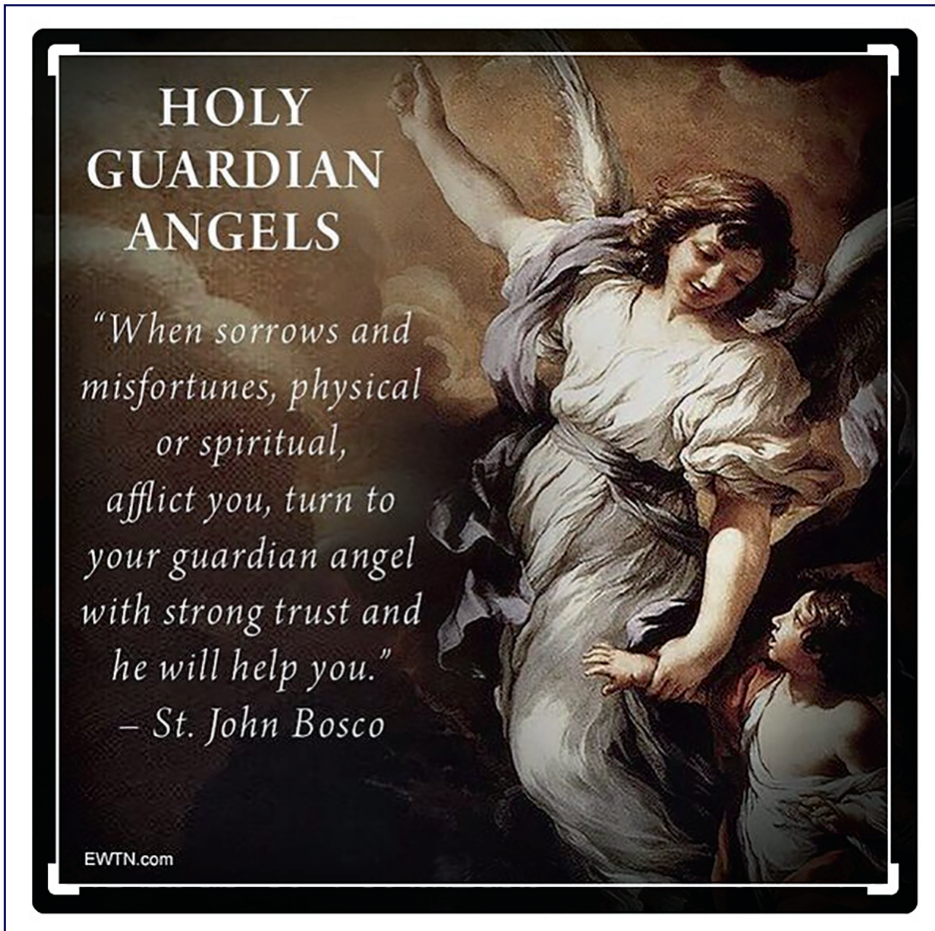


The Mighty Power and the Friendship of the Angels

What an awesome gift God has given us! An angel, our own personal angel, to guard us, to guide us in the ways of the Lord, to enlighten us and direct us.

St. Bernard, in a sermon on the Holy Guardian Angels said, “So that nothing in heaven should be wanting in [the Lord’s] concern for us, [He] sends those blessed spirits to serve us, assigning them as our guardians and our teachers.” *So that nothing should be wanting!* God loves us so much, He has given us so much that we cannot deny that He has done everything except **our own part** to bring us to heaven. Undeniably, God wants each of us in heaven for all eternity.

How privileged we are; how loved we are. Yes, this life can get tough; I dare say it is pretty tough for all of us right now. But can we expect anything otherwise? How could we? Have we not heard the words of Jesus, “If you will be my disciple, you must deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow me”? It is not about being easy. And by this very definitive statement by Jesus it was clear from the very beginning that Jesus knew that once sin entered the world, it would literally be an uphill battle for all of His friends. We have to fight the battles of our own lives, but we have an army to assist us! A very powerful army indeed!



Nowhere in the Bible – our source of knowledge regarding angels – are we given the impression that angels are the fairy-type creatures that are pictured holding bunnies, with wreaths of flowers in their hair. In fact, especially in the Old Testament, God reveals that there are different kinds of angels. Some, such as the seraphim and cherubim, whose sole and lofty purpose is to adore the Triune God, are described as burning like fire, having six wings and four faces, as well as wheels or spheres for feet! This is not the modern depiction of an angel, actually, instead, it is rather frightening. Likewise, the appearance of angels who more directly interact with man, that is, the archangels and guardian angels, are also intimidating figures.

Angels are pure spirits with an intellect and will, no body, who must assume an appearance when necessary to carry out God’s will and deliver His messages. The appearance suits the mission but leaves no doubt of the angels’ authority and ability to carry out the Lord’s will, for as St. Augustine says, the angels are “the mighty ones who do His word.”

Whether they were delivering a message from God or assisting the Chosen People on their journey through the wilderness, whether they were commanding in battle or guiding and accompanying a traveler, whether they were protecting God’s chosen ones in the fiery furnace or in the lions’ den, whether one is awaiting the answer of the Virgin or an entire choir is announcing to the shepherds the birth of the Messiah, whether they were strengthening Jesus in His agony or freeing the apostles from prison, no where do we find the angels depicted as effeminate creatures with flowing garments or feathery wings.

Exactly the opposite. Perusing the many instances of angelic appearances and interventions throughout Scripture two common reactions are noted. The human person’s most frequent response to the angelic presence was either one of dropping to the ground and worshipping, mistaking the angel for God Himself, or one of fear at the daunting, powerful presence. Often the angels’ first words were either, “Do not worship me, I am a fellow servant of the Most High,” or “Do not be afraid.” Why? Because their appearance and presence, reflecting their nature, conveyed a might and an authority, the power and strength of the One Who sent them.

We are given angels to help us as really, truly, and even as dramatically as they did the people of Biblical times. The angels are a gift to us, flowing from God’s love, to help us along our way to eternity. It has long been known that the guardian angels’ primary duty towards their human charge was to help them get to heaven; for those not in the state of grace the angel’s primary duty is to keep them

The Mighty Power and the Friendship of the Angels

physically safe until they are returned to the state of grace and for those in the state of grace, to help them stay in the state of grace. Additionally, for those in the state of grace, our angels help us to do God's will and sometimes this includes bodily protection; for instance, two examples from the Acts of the Apostles: think of the angel freeing Peter from jail so that he could return to preaching in the Temple, or the angel summoning Peter to Joppa to baptize the first Gentile converts.

The lives of the saints are replete with angel stories illustrating these truths.

Some of my most beloved angel stories outside of Scripture belong to St. John Bosco. St. John Bosco lived during a time of fierce anti-clericalism and many in society highly disapproved of his work with the young men who would otherwise be roaming the streets causing trouble. During his life he endured many assassination attempts by the Masons and heretics. John Bosco needed heavenly protection and he was given it ... His angel appeared under the appearance of a dog! This is how it all began:

One night, returning home from his charitable works in a dangerous part of Turin, a large dog began to walk beside him. The dog walked him all the way to his front door and then, with Bosco safely inside, went on his way. This happened several times and Bosco named the dog Grigio (Gray).

Not too long after that, Bosco was again hurrying home in the dark and otherwise deserted streets. Unexpectedly, two shots were fired at him, both missing him. The assailant then ran up to him and bodily attacked him. Instantly, Grigio appeared and chased off the assailant.

Yet another time, it was from a whole gang of assailants that Grigio saved him. Upon reaching a lonely spot on his way home, Don Bosco, hearing steps, turned to see a man approach him with a menacing club. Bosco tried to out run him, but couldn't. He turned to face his aggressor and gave him a quick blow with his fist. This was a cue for the rest of the gang to come to the aggressor's assistance. Able to defend himself against one aggressor, Bosco knew he could not fight off an entire gang. At that very instant, Bosco saw his long-time four-legged friend approach. With Grigio, baring his teeth and growling at Bosco's side, all of the gang fled in fear.

One last Bosco story: His enemies knew that he would not refuse to assist someone on his death bed. Appearing at his door, one of his enemies, disguised, pleaded with Bosco to come to the bedside of dying man. St. John Bosco suspected it was a trap, but did not hesitate to accompany the man. Soon, again, he was in mortal danger along the route and Grigio once again came to his aid.

Another saint who had a very personal relationship with his guardian angel was Padre Pio.

Even as a young child of five years and throughout his life, he could see and converse with his guardian angel. It was so normal for him that as he advanced in age he was surprised to learn that others could not see their angels!

Padre Pio often employed the angels to fulfill their mission as messengers. Often times he would send and receive messages through them. At one point he was sitting on the veranda with his rosary in hand. Another Friar approached, heavy laden with Padre Pio's mail. Somewhat irritated that Padre Pio paid no attention to him, Padre Pio responded, "Can't you see I am busy?" Perplexed, the mail-carrying Friar replied in the negative. Padre Pio explained, "Don't you see the angels around me? They have come to bring me messages ... and it is urgent that I respond." His guardian angel would also translate foreign languages for him, both written in letters and spoken in the Confessional. He would also help Padre Pio respond in the same language.

*No evil shall befall you,
no affliction come near
your tent.*

*For he commands his
angels with regard to you,
to guard you wherever you go.*

*With their hands they
shall support you,
lest you strike your foot
against a stone*

Psalm 91:10-12

Just one more saintly example: St. Gemma Galgani. She lived at the turn of the 20th century in Italy. Her life was filled with physical suffering, some of which were miraculously cured, but most painfully she suffered from the stigmata. She died from tuberculosis in 1903. It was recorded during her life that many were cured through her intercession. More to the point for us, St. Gemma had a remarkable relationship with her guardian angel.

The Mighty Power and the Friendship of the Angels

He would assist her in her prayers, even saying the Rosary with her, alternating the prayers as we do when we say the Rosary together. When St. Gemma's prayer was of a more contemplative nature, he would speak to her in her meditations, suggesting the most sublime thoughts and moving her affections during these meditations. The angel would often open for her the mysteries of Jesus' Passion so that Gemma could enter more deeply into the love of the Lord. Her guardian angel would also direct her, speaking to her, of how to progress in virtue and even correct her when she was at fault.

Amazingly, he also delivered her mail! She would on occasion write to her spiritual father who lived several hundred miles away. She had no money to send the letter so she would place the addressed envelope near a statue of the Child Jesus and ask her guardian angel to deliver the letter. Gemma had no doubt he would. Shortly thereafter, the letter disappeared and reappeared inexplicably – and unstamped – on the desk of her spiritual father. This happened more than once. Her spiritual father asked the Lord in prayer if this was really what was happening and soon thereafter when he was away from home, staying at a monastery, there was a knock on the door and there stood a small boy who asked for Father. The young boy handed him a letter from Gemma and then abruptly walked away without saying anything. No longer did he doubt that Gemma's angel was delivering the letter, for Gemma could not have known that he was at that particular monastery.

Yes, our angels guide, direct, enlighten and guard us. In the real and complete sense of the word, they care for us. Being our protectors, they are concerned for both our physical well-being (as we saw with John Bosco) and our spiritual well-being (as we saw with St. Gemma Galgani) and help us in our God-given mission (as we saw with Padre Pio).

As emissaries of God, our holiness is the primary concern of our angels. And for this they are willing to fight for us, to protect us from the fallen angels' influence and from our own sinful tendencies. Our Father in Heaven so desires our eternal communion with Him that He has provided us with the sure and steady assistance of a heavenly, powerful companion and friend. We should never underestimate their abilities; "the whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of angels," says the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. (CCC 334).

Though not really part of our Western experience, icons have an uncanny ability to teach us, if we let them. The first thing to realize about an icon is that it is not really a form of art. Our Western eye wants to make it one, because it is a painted image, but icons were never intended to be such. Icons are written, not painted; they are theology, not art. They teach us revealed truth; they do not attempt to give a realistic impression of the subject. Because everything in an icon means something, an iconographers' mantra is "imitate, don't innovate." If we are receptive, icons are excellent teachers of this truth.

*See I am sending an angel
before you to GUARD you
on the way
and BRING you to the place
I have prepared.
BE ATTENTIVE and
HEED HIS VOICE.*

Exodus 23:20-21a

In iconography, angels often carry a staff of authority and power or, if not that, a sword to indicate their role of protector. Also in icons, they may have wings indicating the swiftness of their movement. An angel's hand, or hands, extended, indicate their intercession for us before the Throne of God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us, "From infancy to death human life is surrounded by [angels'] watchful care and intercession" (CCC 336).

Intercession is one of the major roles of our guardian angels which is clearly indicated in iconography. So, not only do our angels carry our prayers to God for us in a swift and sure manner, not only are our angels generally helpful, not only do they enlighten, protect and lead us along the true and sure path, but they also intercede for us as they direct and guide us to heaven. They cannot dispense grace, but they certainly know Who can and they are not shy to ask, especially when they know we are having difficulties and not readily accepting their assistance.

Angels really are our best friends, never sleeping, and constantly looking out for our best interests, namely our sanctification. We can always count on their assistance. I even ask my angel to assist me, to go before me, when I have to engage in a difficult conversation.

Our angels are always ready and always willing to assist us. The key word here is ALWAYS. Fostering a good and healthy relationship with your own personal guardian angel can only benefit you. Our angels are not God. They do not have infinite knowledge or, necessarily, the intimate knowledge of our thoughts. We need to communicate with them and let them communicate with us... and then be docile to the subtle nudges

The Mighty Power and the Friendship of the Angels

to do good, those inspirations that we cannot otherwise explain. We have all experienced the influence of the fallen angels, especially through temptations and just general interference. Why are we slow to accept that the good angels are just as active?

Knowing all this, what have we to fear? Shouldn't we trust and treasure the gift of the angels? The Letter to the Hebrews says, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). With the angels helping us, protecting us from the evil one and his minions, we can be confident and strong in our daily battle. How comforting to know that, as Saint Thomas Aquinas says, "The angels work together for the benefit of us all" (as cited in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 350).

St. Bernard wrote in one of his sermons on the Guardian Angels: "They who keep us in our ways cannot be overpowered or led astray, much less lead us astray. They are loyal, prudent, powerful. Why then are we afraid? We have only to follow them, stay close to them, and we shall dwell under the protection of God's heaven". They are better than an insurance policy! The key to all of this is the importance of fostering a relationship with your angel. More than likely, you won't find him extraordinarily helpful if you ignore him or disregard him.

It seems imperative that we thank our angels after we sense their assistance, and, perhaps, at the end of the day for all of the times they helped us unnoticed, which, surely, are many.

I whole-heartedly encourage you to deepen your relationship with and your devotion to your guardian angel. The angels are here, present with us, as they are present to God, gazing upon the face of our Heavenly Father. They want to protect you, serve you, lead you to heaven where they will be your companion and rejoice with you for all eternity. With all of this in mind, perhaps it would be fitting for us to consider praying to our Guardian Angel often, every day. Love them, honor them. Be grateful to and for them. Pray to them, ask their assistance. Whether it is to carry your prayers to heaven, to enlighten and guard, to rule and guide, to intercede or protect, your angel is ever with you to help you achieve your life's project: your salvation.

Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels: October 2



Reading the Guardian Angel icon is simple!

- Gold halo: the angel is a citizen of heaven, holy
- Blue garment: again, he is from heaven
- Purple cloak: a royal color, he is member of the heavenly court
- Wings: a messenger of God; swiftness; not linear movement (he is here, then he is there); also, the wings indicate that the angel is carrying our prayers to God, ascending and descending upon the Jacob's ladder
- Headband blowing and fiery colored wings: Hebrews 1:7 "Of the angels he says: 'He makes his angels winds and his ministers a fiery flame,'" quoting Psalm 104:4 "You make the winds your messengers; flaming fire, your ministers"
- The red-brown frame: earth
- Three-colored background: he is coming from the highest, the deepest heavens, the middle color represents the OT concept of the firmament with waters above the heavens (Psalm 148:4), the light blue is what we see as the sky. The angel is, so to speak, stepping through the "layers" of heaven -- his halo infringes the frame -- to earth
- Hand outstretched: he is interceding
- Holding a sword: he is protecting
- Signature (red, Greek letters in upper corners): Greek abbreviation for Angel Guardian
- His mouth is closed, he has no message of his own
- Head inclined towards heaven, towards God
- Ears are visible: he constantly listens for God's message

Becoming an IHM

Clearly stated, in black and white, in one of the letters of our Father Founder to the Superior of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in California, Father Joaquin Masmitjá tells her, “Upon the novitiate all depends.”

The time of initial formation is one of the most significant periods in a Sister’s religious life. So much to learn. So much to discern. So much to integrate. So much to ... do.



The primary reason for formation is to deepen one’s conformation to Jesus Christ, and for us, in a Marian way. For this reason, the young Sisters have to come to know Jesus, not just about Him, but to think like Him, to act like Him, to love like Him. This is the all-pervasive reason and motivation for all that is presented to them, all they are given to study, and all they are asked to do.

This initial formation has three stages: postulancy, novitiate, and first (temporary) profession. Though these stages are all distinct, as a whole, they are referred to as “the novitiate.”

The first of these, the postulancy, is the shortest of all three. When young women come to the religious community as postulants, they live our life and ask themselves and the community if this is the life God is calling them to live. It is also a time of transition from lay life and to entrance into the life of religious

family. As discernment regarding their vocation continues with the assistance of their novice mistress, the postulants begin their studies. Most often their first classes are Introduction to Prayer, which includes topics such as how to meditate, the discernment of spirits and the examen prayer, practicing the presence of God, and lectio divina; Introduction to Doctrine, to make sure everyone has a correct and thorough foundation in the Church’s teachings; Mariology, so that all may better know Christ and His Church, to learn from her how to live a reflection of her vocation as virgin, bride and mother, and to better appreciate how we represent and, in a sense, personify the Church; and an introduction to the Church’s teaching regarding religious life.

Though studies are irreplaceable, the postulancy is not primarily academic. In addition to all they have to learn from these studies, the postulants are introduced to our life of prayer; each day begins with 30 minutes of mental prayer, Morning Prayer of the

Becoming an IHM

Liturgy of the Hours and our communal Mass. Throughout the remainder of the day they make a Eucharistic Holy Hour, pray the rosary with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, do spiritual reading, and participate in the other Hours of the Divine Office.

Prayer is an indispensable part of our day, so much so that we try to extend the times of formal prayer throughout our entire day. Probably the most obvious practice which enables this is that of silence, through which we learn to be with, to live in accompaniment with, the Lord who is within. This can be rough for some at the beginning, but soon it is appreciated and valued. During the postulancy the young women are also introduced to work, and that, too, is in silence! Quiet work is essential for it provides the time and space to digest, absorb, integrate, and apply all they are learning.

In addition, human formation is emphasized during this time. As religious women we are called to reflect a Mary-like quality; consequently, in the formation of the postulants we promote and highlight the Marian virtues, especially charity, obedience, humility, and chastity. Being inconspicuous so that all we do and say points to Christ, as it was with Our Blessed Lady, we also instruct the postulants in basic etiquette, good manners, feminine qualities, and courtesy. It is important that, from the very beginning, they join in making fraternal life in community socially agreeable to all.

The average length of the postulancy is six months to a year. At that point, if both the individual and the community believe that in deed, yes, it seems as if God is calling the postulant to the IHM way of religious life, the postulant is invited to request admission into our religious family. With this momentous move, the postulant receives a new name and a white veil, as well as a medal/necklace of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The novitiate is the most protected period of formation. Canon Law devotes more articles to the novitiate than to any other period of formation. During this two-year period, the novices continue the formation of the postulancy with additional facets integrated into that program of formation.

The two years of novitiate are vitally important; consequently, rarely are they interrupted or paused for any reason. During this time, the young Sisters are given further instruction on how to pray, how to live a holy, virtuous fraternal life in community, how to serve, and how to work. The young women also learn how to live a Eucharistic life and a Marian life, how to live our religious life with all of our practices and customs; they learn the Church's teaching regarding religious life, the principles and practices of religious life, the theology and practice of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience, and basic theology and philosophy.

To help achieve these ends, academic work includes daily Scripture study as well as classes in Scripture (but study is insufficient; the Sisters also learn how to pray with the Scriptures), Moral Theology, Church History, the Documents of the Second Vatican

Council, Liturgy, Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Spiritual Theology (further classes on prayer, especially the Carmelite greats). A good portion of the novitiate is dedicated to the study of our own internal documents such as our Constitutions and Directory, as well as our history, our charism and customs, and the Letters of our Father Founder.

The Church's documents on Religious Life, most specifically *Redemptionis Donum*, the *Essential Elements of Religious Life*, and *Fraternal Life in Community* are studied sequentially throughout the novitiate. (*Vita Consecrata* is studied after first profession.) The Church's teaching is inspiring, beautiful, and packed with the theology of religious life, its responsibilities and duties, and the incentive and motivation to live it well.

Most importantly, during these two years of concentrated formation, the young women have the opportunity and personal responsibility to deepen their relationship with Jesus. Everything: every class, every task, every practice and custom, every project, every duty, every obligation, even every recreation, is to serve this purpose. Needless to say, it is intense, but because of that it also has its light moments! Novitiate outings are a joy and greatly anticipated!

After two years of preparation to become a Bride of Christ, the novice is invited to request permission to vow for one year chastity, poverty and obedience according to our Constitutions. With first profession, the young Sisters officially begin their religious life: they become Brides of Christ! Yet, even so, after profession, formation continues though adapted to fit their new day to day life. This new stage in their formation will have to coincide with either a return to school to complete their degrees and obtain a teaching license or, if that is complete, then a gradual introduction into the active apostolate of our community.

This formation, building on the previous 2 ½ years, continues the human and spiritual formation of the previous stages, but will now widen its focus to include more doctrinal formation as well as apostolic and professional formation. Truly building on their rock-solid foundation, the Sisters strive to find and maintain the essential unity which links contemplation and apostolic activity. A life of prayer and a life of apostolic service are not two aspects at war with each other, but a life in which the two facets feed and nourish each other.

Temporary profession is for a period of at least three years. Even as this stage comes to a close, formation never does ... it continues until death.

All in all, the initial formation undertaken in the novitiate is to give the young women who come to us the opportunity to become a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, not just look like one. They learn how to be Sisters. Yes, they have much to learn and much to do, but they also have so much to become!

Becoming an IHM

*Please pray for these women who have been open and responsive to God's call of serving!
Most High, Glorious God, enlighten their hearts, give them right faith,
certain hope, and perfect charity, wisdom and understanding, Lord,
that they may carry out Your holy and true command. Amen.*



Sister Julian Marie

I love how I get to be such a tangible sign of Our Lord's presence among His people, reminding them that He is still Emmanuel, God with us.

Sister Maria Cabrini

As a Bride of Christ, I have the opportunity to witness to the love of Christ on the college campus, both to teachers and students, by wearing my habit and with the great joy it is to be a religious. This increases my desire to teach and form souls.



Sister Edith Marie

My favorite part about being a novice is being able to watch Jesus seemingly go out of His way to delight me, in my Sisters, in my classes, in my interactions with others. The bridal engagement of the novitiate allows me to intimately experience His love in a way I couldn't have otherwise expected.



Becoming an IHM

Sister Mary Gemma

My favorite part of being a novice is that by living the life of an IHM with my Sisters, praying and learning about our life, I am being formed to be a Bride of Christ.



Sister Emelia Marie

My favorite part of the novitiate is having the opportunity to learn more about my Faith, my Sisters and my Jesus!

Noelle

My heart is ready to be blown away by Jesus!



Kailey

My favorite part of the postulancy has been entering the new world of the convent. It allows for a time to discover who I was made to be, even if it means making a few mistakes along the way.

Remember the Sisters

SAVE THE DATE

BY MRS. BRONWEN LEWIS

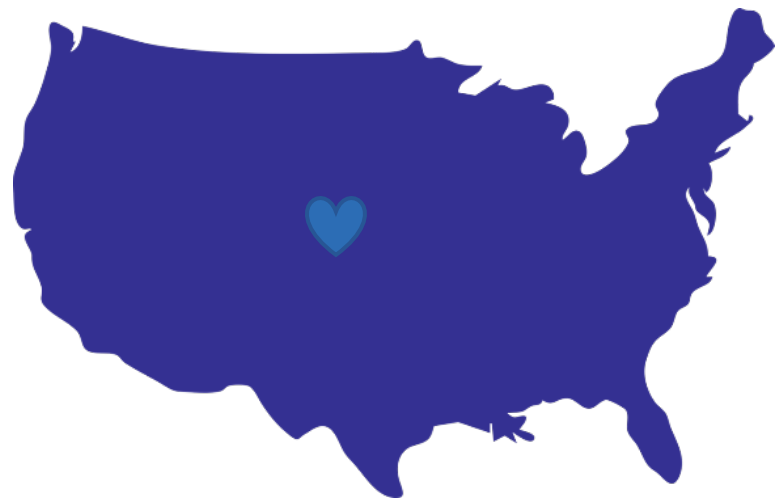
The Immaculate Heart of Mary: Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope

Save the date! The save-the-date notice is a courtesy many brides-to-be use to ask family and friends to begin planning for the event. This notice gives friends and family enough time to plan ahead for everything they need to do in order to be able to attend the event ... things like getting enough time set aside to attend the event, and budgeting to make sure there is adequate funding for travel, lodging, and perhaps most importantly, for a thoughtful gift to the bride and groom. Participation by friends in this once-in-a-lifetime event is **IMPORTANT** and **MEANINGFUL**, especially to the bride.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita, brides of Christ, have a similar save-the-date event – the building of their once-in-a-lifetime, once in a century, Motherhouse ... a Michelangelo moment in the heartland of America ... a Motherhouse that if properly funded will include a towering statue of Mary atop the building calling all of us ... guiding all of us ... to Her protective and Most Pure and Immaculate Heart.

Please save-the-date for the Sisters! I ask you to begin planning for this event now. Please include the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita in your gift and estate planning in this very special way and become a part of IHM history. Saving-the-date is the Sisters' way of trying to make it easier for you to remember the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita as you make your budgets, your estate plans, your yearly gifts, your monthly gifts, and the timing of your gifts. Planning allows you to set the time, and the best vehicle or vehicles, for you to give to the Sisters.

Just like a wedding is the most important day of a young's bride's life, breaking ground on a new Motherhouse will be an important day in the life of the Church. This is an opportunity for Catholics to be a part of something momentous that is growing, and has been growing for some time, amongst the golden wheat of the heartland. It is a moment for leaving a legacy to the greater Church, for this generation and generations to come; to the students, and for the families and individuals whom the Sisters teach and encounter each day. With every beam, sill, and joist raised, with every stone laid, we will be building up Christ's Church, from the Flint Hills to the east and from the Smoky Hills to the west. This is an opportunity to live up to the legacy of our Catholic forebearers who built so many beautiful Catholic parishes and Cathedrals in our land. It is important that we do so.



Remember the Sisters

The Motherhouse building will be a beacon for new vocations and a forever home for the Sisters. It will include a Chapel where vocations are consecrated, where vows are professed, and someday (and we pray that it will be a long time yet!) where the Mass of the Christian Burial is held for a Sister when she has gone to her heavenly glories.

The heart of the matter is your gift to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita. It will take extraordinary giving and extraordinary praying...all this and lots and lots (and lots) of Memorares and lots and lots (and lots) of gifts for the glorious day when we can all say, this is the Motherhouse that Memorares built!

Let's start planning....



ONLINE GIVING AND ACH FORMS:

SistersIHMofWichita.org

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