



# Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Winter 2014

*Dear Family & Friends of IHM,*

Our Lady bestowed her gifts to us on her birthday, September 8th, with the entrance of two beautiful young postulants. This year is proving to be a year of promise as we look forward to the completion of our Novitiate House in 2015, the year Pope Francis designated the Year of Consecrated Life. Our Lord arranges everything so delightfully, and with eyes of faith, we step back and marvel at His infinite love and faithfulness.



With young women entering our community and countless others visiting and inquiring, "If one of us enters will you have room for us?" we run with joyful hearts to meet each day's new responsibilities, discovering God's will and preparing for the future. In the spirit of faith and apostolic zeal we embrace our marching orders from Pope Francis who, speaking to Religious said: *"An authentic faith always involves a profound desire to change the world. Here is the question we must ask ourselves: do we also have great vision and impetus? Are we also daring? Do our dreams fly high? Does zeal consume us (cf. Ps 68:10)? Or are we mediocre and satisfied with our "made in the lab" apostolic programs?"* I earnestly pray we can meet his challenge by living our charism of teaching and praying for the conversion of sinners with an enthusiasm, fervor and zeal, with a vitality that the urgency of our times makes absolutely necessary.

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I look back over the last 12 months and see the outpouring of God's love revealed in so many ways, most especially through your loving support of our community. We know we couldn't do what we do without you. Your prayers ... more than a million Memorares ... your participation in all our events and your words of encouragement are all a consolation beyond measure.

Please keep us in your prayers, most especially our new postulants as they learn the way of life as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In Mary's Immaculate Heart,

*Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM*

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

*Future IHM Novitiate House*



## Take me out to the ballgame!

On Sunday, August 3, a group of seminarians (from several dioceses) and hundreds of young adults came together for a day of friendship, softball, and good food, all to benefit our building project. What started five years ago as a backyard birthday gathering for Seminarian Clay Kimbro, blossomed into four softball teams, bleachers and lawn chairs full of cheering crowds – young adults, Sisters, priests, and entire families. After the games at the St. Mark, KS, diamonds the party moved to the farm, just a few miles away, where the Knights of Columbus were already cooking up hundreds of hotdogs for the 400+ who converged upon the farm. After enjoying the picnic, the Sisters showed the young people around the farm, giving special attention to the Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima. Clay and his friends even designed a T-shirt for the occasion!

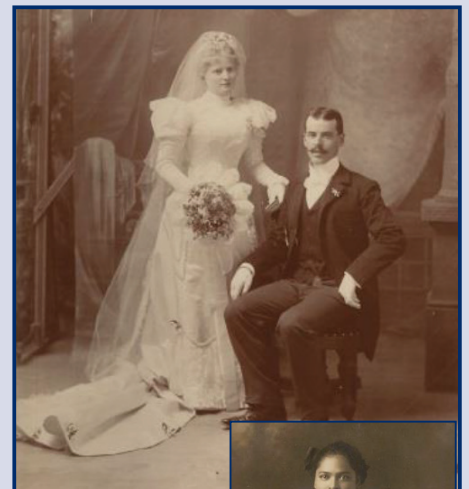


## Heritage Series

### The Early Life of Sister M. Eileen MacDonald, IHM

*In the previous chapter of our IHM History, we left off with the Californian Sisters separating from the Spanish Institute in 1924, thus establishing the California Institute of the Sisters of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary on May 15, 1924. Sister M. Eileen MacDonald, IHM, one of our Wichita foundresses, entered the community and professed her first vows just prior to that separation.*

Born in Mexico in 1903, Sister Eileen was the second child and first daughter of her Irish father, Parrish MacDonald, and her Californian born mother, Emilie Hoffmann. She would eventually



have three brothers and one sister. Parrish and his brother Bernard owned and operated silver mines in the mountains of Mexico. The family being very wealthy, Eileen (her legal name and her religious name) was under the care of a nanny until her teen-age years. When the Mexican Revolution

# Heritage Series

heightened, her whole family fled Mexico into southern California by way of railroad cattle cars provided by the Governor of the State of Guanajuato, who was friendly to the family.

In California for her young adult years, she discerned her vocation; determined to become a missionary and go to China, she decided to join the Maryknoll Sisters. Informing her confessor of her decision, he promptly replied, "No, you must join the IHMs" ... and so she did.

Her family was in opposition to her entrance into religious life and did not give her any assistance. Despite the family opposition, Eileen remained resolute in her decision and entered the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on November 21, 1921.

The date for her reception into the novitiate was set for May 24, 1922. At this time, it was customary for young women entering the novitiate to wear a wedding gown during the ceremony. Because of her family's disapproval of her entrance into religious life, they would not supply the gown. The novice mistress, aware of the family's disapproval, decided to contact Mrs. MacDonald, telling her that Eileen was the only one being received who would be wearing a used dress. She was immediately fitted with an elegant gown for her reception! The community decided that Eileen should retain her baptismal name, in hopes that this would help



the parents accept their beloved daughter's vocation.

Sister (Mary) Eileen pronounced her first vows on May 24, 1923 and her perpetual vows on May 24, 1926. Her first teaching assignment was in San Pedro, California, at Mary Star, in 1926. From there she moved to Immaculate Heart High School until 1934. While she was teaching at Immaculate Heart High School she taught a young woman with whom she would remain closely united in friendship for the rest of her life: Lillian (Elizabeth) Brummell, the future Sister M. Joanne. Thirty-five years later Sister M. Joanne would write of their friendship: "I thank Him for our love in Him who blesses friends who love one another in His blessed love." From IHM High School Sister M. Eileen would move to Immaculate Conception and then in 1935 to Bishop Conaty. She continued her education while teaching.

Sister Eileen enjoyed a distinguished academic career: a BA from Immaculate Heart College, an MA in Spanish from University of California Los Angeles, and a PhD in romance languages from the University of Southern California. After receiving her doctorate, she studied at the University of Paris. Returning to the States, she taught in several diocesan schools and in 1941 was assigned to Immaculate Heart College as assistant language professor.

After teaching in the college for only a few years, she was appointed Academic Dean and served in that capacity for over 20 years until 1964. For 16 of those years she served as acting President of the college.

During these years of Sister Eileen's life, the California Institute of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was growing rapidly, receiving classes of novices numbering 20 to 30 young women each year.



# A Birthday Gift!

On the vigil of her birthday, Our Lady blessed us with two wonderful postulants! With their entrance and so many more expressing interest and visiting, our decision to build a novitiate house is being confirmed time and time again. Repeatedly we are reminded to praise God for His faithfulness to us and for blessing us with good, holy, and persevering vocations. Our two postulants, Jamie Jackle and Elizabeth Goenner, would like to introduce themselves.

life, but I did not yet have the faith to foster or nourish the idea of a religious vocation. It was through my love of learning that God slowly began to prepare me to embrace His call fully.

As such, I continued through high school, participating in Science Olympiad my sophomore through senior years. In junior year, at the girl's retreat, the IHM's presented religious life in a beautiful way, yet I was still

not willing to accept my calling. I had many ideas about what I should do with my life, and the religious life just did not fit in that. For the next two years, I ignored God's calling out to me.

My first year of college was at Butler County Community College, where I planned to earn a nursing degree. I was working as a Certified Nurse Aide at Via Christi Villages and going to college full time, so life was busy. Yet throughout all of it, I could not calm my inner turmoil. My life did not feel right.

Repeatedly, I kept coming across the religious life—either in my thoughts or through my surroundings. God would not leave me alone! Then in December, I made the decision to repair and strengthen my relationship with God and started praying regularly. I begged Him constantly in prayer to open up my heart to His love, and He did not disappoint me.

From there, God moved very quickly. I went to Fiat (a discernment retreat) in January of 2014 and felt more than ever God calling me to religious life. Shortly thereafter, I began visiting the IHMs, coming for dinner every other week. After attending the Sisters' Lenten retreat, spending an entire weekend with the community, I knew where God was calling me. I soon asked for an application and was accepted during the summer. I entered on September 7th, the Vigil of Our Lady's Nativity, and have spent the last month and a half growing in my relationship with God and continuing my discernment.



## Jamie Jackle

I was born in Tucson, Arizona, the youngest of three children, to John and Michelle Jackle. My family lived there for only two and a half years more, and then moved back to Wichita, where both of my older siblings, Jennifer and Jarred, had been born. I grew up in the Magdalen parish, attending elementary and middle school there. It was there that I first felt an interest in religious life. In eighth grade as we learned about vocations, my teacher very firmly told us not to assume we were going to be married. He said, "You must always be open to whatever God may be calling you." At the time, I assumed I would marry like all the other girls in my class, but I firmly decided I would remain open to either calling. The thought of religious life, however, remained sitting in the back of my mind.

I attended high school at Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School; it was there that I was first introduced to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Freshman year, Sr. Mary Ann Kirkland, IHM, taught my Salvation History class. Her whimsical and creative approach to the classroom truly brought the Old Testament to life for me, and fostered my love of learning about Catholicism. Her joy gave me a better view of religious



# *A Birthday Gift!*



## **Elizabeth Goenner**

I am the oldest child of Kurt and Anita Goenner and I have a younger sister, Claire. I was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, where my family is a part of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, and where I also attended grade school. Growing up I enjoyed playing piano and softball, and volunteering at the library. I graduated

from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in May 2014. During high school, I enjoyed many activities, belonging to a variety of organizations and clubs: the newspaper staff, God Squad, Teaching Academy, Handmaids of Mary, and the Angels of the Holy Queen.

Having grown up with little exposure to religious life, I never gave much thought to becoming a Sister. But freshman year when I had an IHM Sister as a teacher, I began to see the beauty of religious life through her witness and I started to pray about my vocation, trying to discern how the Lord was calling me. I tried to focus more on my spiritual life and realize how the Lord works in my life in order to understand what He was telling me to do.

I kept asking God for huge signs that would tell me where I should go and what I should do. This discernment continued throughout the next couple of years, until my senior year when I began to visit the IHMs for an evening every few weeks. Through various activities in high school I had gotten to know the IHMs and I had had the opportunity to visit before, and as I continued to visit I began to feel at home with the Sisters.

Eventually I came to understand that sometimes God works through the still, small voice that Elisha heard on the mountain. My desire was growing; I spoke with Sister Mary Agnes frequently after school, seeking direction and clarity.

In November I decided to enter, and finally after waiting for graduation in May and my 18th birthday in August, I was blessed to enter on September 7th, the vigil of the Nativity of Mary.

*Please pray for their joyful perseverance in the doing of God's will and for more postulants, all for the greater honor and glory of God!*

## Prayer for the **YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE**



**WAKE UP THE WORLD!**  
— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

## *Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life*

O GOD, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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# The Joy of Giving

by Bronwen Lewis

Most things in life are planned. We plan and set goals for ourselves at even the earliest of ages, for example, breaking a record, making it to the Spelling Bee, getting a better letter grade on a test. As we age, we make more plans, and set more goals ... graduating in three years, becoming financially independent, owning a business, running in a marathon. Many of us even plan on what gifts to purchase for a birthday or Christmas. All of this carries through to planning charitable gifts. Personally, I think of charitable giving as a life-long plan of giving. Giving is as natural to us as breathing. It is the way God made us.

If you were to make a plan of charitable giving goals you would like to achieve, where would you start? Giving is very personal...it should be...it is a gift of self.

My suggestion is that you make a footprint of your life ... the charities you have given to, and those whom you haven't but would perhaps like to. There is no shortage of great causes and organizations to support. A few might be:

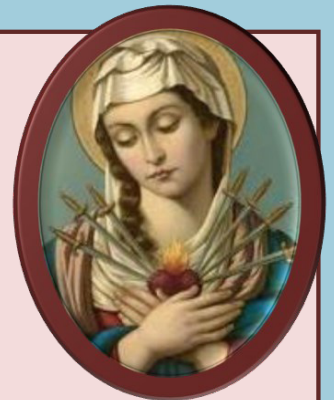
Alma Mater (parish school, catholic high school, college/university)  
Feeding the Hungry  
Catholic Church  
Prevention of Homelessness  
St. Jude's Hospital and other child advocacy programs  
Religious Life (Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)

Winston Churchill said, "Never, ever, ever, ever give up". I like to put a twist on this, "never, ever, ever, ever think your gift doesn't matter"... your gift does matter ... it is a part of you. Your gift helps the charity keep doing what it does best...your gift breathes life into helping.

As the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita begin construction on their Novitiate House, I am deeply aware of the life you have breathed into this plan, and of what you have provided for the Sisters. If I were the audience and you were the speech giver or performer, I would be clapping, and as you continued to give, and continued to plan to give, I would be giving you thunderous applause...a standing ovation... my tears of endearment most apparent. Speaking would be difficult, but I would try to utter these simple words ... thank you. I can only imagine heaven as your audience, and all the angels and saints giving you the same applause, the same standing ovation...and God would say to you... well done, good and faithful servant.

*May the angels lead them  
into paradise.*

*Gifts have been given in memory of*



Marjorie Baierski	Martha Dell Lewis
Paul E. Barker	Debbie Lorg
Lorraine Blanding	Michael Lorg
LaRoda Bock	Sr. M. Eileen MacDonald, IHM
Karl Brown	William Mertens
Mtr. M. Joanne Brummel, IHM	Joe Miller
Jennie Callea	Alice O'Halloran
Lyle Casey	Jim O'Halloran
Lillian Clay	Sr. M. Giovanni Oliveri, IHM
Vivian Clay	Mary Bressi Persic
Kathleen DeSanti	Wanda Rinehart
Rocky DeSanti	Mrs. Mary Rivard
Kathie Dick	Gary Schulte
Bertha Flynn	John Somes
R.T. Hammersley	Rose Weber
Lucille Kos	
George Lewis	
Hiram W. Lewis, Jr.	



# *JHM's Honey Harvest*

## **Our Lady's Apiary, 2014**

*Two of our four hives produced enough honey this summer to share some with us ... thanks to the near-by alfalfa fields.*



*The honeycomb was evenly drawn by the bees and nicely capped.*



*Mother Mary Magdalene expertly removes the capping from one of the frames with a heated knife.*



*Voile! The de-capped combs are then placed in a spinner to extract the honey from the comb (which the bees will reuse next year).*



*The golden honey then runs through a strainer.*



*The honey is then heated to 125 degrees F so that it won't crystalize and then bottled.*

*We harvested 60 pounds of delicious golden honey!*

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*Our new postulants  
with our  
“new to us” statue  
for the Novitiate  
House Chapel.*



In November of 2013, Pope Francis declared 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life. This year, specially dedicated to consecrated men and women will begin on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014, and conclude on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation (declared in 1997 by Pope John Paul II as the Day for Consecrated Life) in 2016. When making this joyful announcement, Pope Francis said, “Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! ... Religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic

way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up. ... What I expect of you therefore is to give witness. I want this special witness from religious.” Please pray that we can take up this mandate anew!

The focus for the year is three-fold: to renew religious life, to promote gratitude among the faithful for the gift of consecrated life in the Church, and to invite the young to consider a religious vocation.

Many events will be planned to celebrate this year. Three national events are already scheduled: February 8 will be a “getting to know you day,” encouraging religious to find ways to introduce their community life, their charism and their history to families; during the summer of 2015 religious are asked to host Mission Days, allowing the lay faithful to join religious in service; and September 13, 2015, will be a national day of prayer with Religious. Stayed tuned for local details!

*Thank you so very much!  
Only 4,091,980 more to go  
... please keep praying!*

1,208,020

*Memoraries  
for our Lady  
to Date*