



Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Summer 2015

Dear Friends of Our Lady,

**“Who is She that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon,
bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array.”**

~Antiphon of the Catena Legionis



It wasn't fear that inspired the founders of the Legion of Mary, the Blue Army, and the Militia of the Immaculata to take their place in the service of the Queen. Nor is it fear that moves us, as we consider the danger and the risks of entering the fray and engaging in the ensuing battle. It is love that casts out fear and fills us with great joy and confidence in Our Lady who promised, "In the end My Immaculate Heart will triumph."

Our Holy Father recently spoke on the need for courage, like that of the Apostles and the first Christian community. He said, "this courage carried forward the work of evangelization, free of fear, of death and martyrdom." As we look back over the history of the Church we see the heroic courage of the saints in the face of great persecution and know we have the same call to such heroism for the sake of the Church, the Kingdom here on earth.

In these times, and in every time, the followers of Christ are called to live courageously, to be resolute in their faith and in seeking and doing God's will with a magnanimous heart. The Sisters and I know several vocations are just around the corner for us. We need to pray for them, for their courage to do God's will, and to be undaunted in their desire to do great things for God and for His Church. Please join us in praying for strong, dedicated and persevering young women for our community.

In the Heart of Our Mother

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

*Thank you so very much!
Only 3,569,292 more to go
... please keep praying!*

1,730,708

*Memorares
for Our Lady
to Date*

Heritage Series

Mother M. Joanne Brummel, IHM

The families of William Brummel and Theresa Breithaupt both lived in Chicago, Illinois. When the two were young, both families moved to Los Angeles, California.



William and Theresa married and shortly thereafter, their marriage was blessed with a child, Henry. William, a man deeply devoted to the Blessed Virgin, prayed for a daughter, promising the Blessed Virgin that she would be Hers in every way, even for religious life, if that be God's will.

Awaiting the birth of their second baby, he offered the child to the Mother of God. On May 23, 1912, Elizabeth Mary Theresa was born in the family home and baptized three weeks later on June 16, 1912 at St. Joseph's Church in Los Angeles. She was the apple of her father's eye. He wrote on the back of a photo taken of "Lillian" when she was 8 ½ months old, "Our fair Lillian. Prettiest and sweetest little tot you want to see. Doesn't half do her justice."



TOP: William and Theresa Brummel, the parents of Sister M. Joanne.

ABOVE: Lillian, the future Sister M. Joanne, "doesn't half do her justice!"

During her childhood years, her parents made their home primarily in southern California, mostly in Glendale and Los Angeles. It was in Glendale at Holy Family Church that Lillian received her First

Holy Communion in the year 1919. She received the sacrament of Confirmation from the hands of the Most Reverend John Cantwell on June 12, 1926, in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Los Angeles.

Lillian attended public school through her seventh grade and then transferred as a resident student to Immaculate Heart High School for her eighth grade and high school years. There, under the daily influence of the Sisters, she recognized her vocation to religious life, fostered it by daily Mass and Holy Communion, frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the daily rosary. It was her hope and desire and her daily prayer intention that Jesus would want her for His Spouse. Recognizing the spiritual direction of her life, her classmates repeatedly elected her as president of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



April 6, 1931, Lillian's reception day. Here she is with her father, dressed as a bride for her reception into the novitiate

After graduation from high school in May of 1930, on August 14 of the same year she entered the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Los Angeles as a postulant and began her college education at the same time. Her novitiate began on April 6, 1931, at which time she received the name of Sr. Mary Joanne. Later that year, in December, when Sr. M. Joanne, after having learned that she was accepted for profession of vows, informed her parents. The letter she received from her father was so special to her she saved it for the rest of her life. In part it reads,

...My dear daughter, to say it gave me a thrill and then opened a tempest in my heart, is putting it mildly. ... Sincerest love, sadness (much), after all, gladness (more), admiration and real happiness

Heritage Series

for having so good a daughter. You've been the apple of my eye always and I always did so wish to see you finally really happy. You have conclusively shown me you are truly happy there, so may the Good and Gracious Lord always keep you so. You cannot possibly know how mother and I both wanted to have you back with us, but, your happiness first. The knowledge of which is my reward, my happiness.

On April 9, 1932, she made her first profession of vows.

Consequently, she was able to continue her college education and she earned her undergraduate degree while concurrently teaching at Cathedral Chapel School in Los Angeles.



Sister M. Joanne, newly professed.

During the years following her first profession, Sister M. Joanne taught in a number of different schools including Immaculate Heart High School, St. Anthony's High School in Long Beach, Blessed Sacrament School and Bishop Conaty High School in Los Angeles, St. Bernardine's High School in San Bernardino and at Paraclete High School in Lancaster. Sister M. Joanne continued her education while she was teaching, earning a Masters of Science in Education.

Even after earning her Masters, she continued her education with studies at the University of California in Los Angeles as well as the University of Southern California. She professed her perpetual vows on April 9, 1935.

In addition to serving the Church through the educational apostolate, Sister M. Joanne also served her community as local superior while administering St. Anthony's High School and Elementary Schools as principal. She was also local superior of St. Thomas Convent when she was head of the English Department at Bishop Conaty High School.

When her father received news of her first appointment as local superior he wrote her saying, My darling daughter,

I must write to my sweet a few lines to congratulate you on your proof of accomplishments. I was so flabbergasted on hearing it over the phone I hardly knew what to say. Well my dear, mother and I have been praying for your help and guidance to our blessed Mother to whom you have been dedicated before your birth.

It is really grand to know our dear daughter is progressing right along though I do hope it will not be too hard on you. Take it easy and don't worry, my dear. Be nice to all and remain humble. You are grand that way in my eyes as well as in the Lord's ...

During these busy years of teaching, serving as principal and local superior, Sr. M. Joanne developed a double ear infection. Before the general and popular use of penicillin, the doctor instructed her to take

bed rest allowing the ears to heal naturally. Sr. M. Joanne's superior overruled the doctor, saying there was no time for bed rest. Consequently, both of Sr. M. Joanne's eardrums burst; she never fully recovered her hearing.

After the loss of her hearing, teaching was very difficult, but it did not slow her down otherwise. She served her community in various capacities ranging from General Treasurer, to local superior, and later, even as novice mistress.

As General Treasurer of the Immaculate Heart Community in California, she developed and initiated a unified system of accounting for all of the entities of the Institute: the General Administration, Immaculate Heart College, Immaculate Heart High School, Immaculate Heart Novitiate, Immaculate Heart Retreat House, and three hospitals: Queen of the Valley, Saint Mary of the Desert Valley, and Immaculate Heart Hospital.

Sister M. Joanne lived in Southern California until moving to Wichita in 1976.



Sister M. Joanne in the 1950's.



All For the Kingdom

“The Sisters engage in the works of Catholic education, including spiritual retreats, serving the people of God at every level and in any program which provides an opportunity to spread the Gospel message entrusted to the Church.” (IHM Constitutions #67)

When we meet people for the first time, we’re often asked the question, “What do you do?” Sometimes the question comes to my mind, “What don’t we do?” Our Constitutions call us to spread the Gospel message in many ways and to people of all ages. We spend a lot of our time and energy teaching in three of our Catholic high schools and four of our Catholic grade schools in the Wichita Diocese. Yet it doesn’t stop there.

The Motherhouse is active hosting events for women of all ages. Saturday morning may find the Sisters having breakfast and talking to the Little Flowers (a Catholic club for girls ages 5 and up). Groups of young women will fill the Motherhouse during discernment retreats and “nun-runs” (a popular way for a group of young women to “hit the road” and visit various religious communities over a short period of a time). Throughout the year we welcome young women who

will spend an evening, a night, a weekend, or even a week in the convent experiencing religious life. Men and women of all ages are invited to the IHM Auxiliary meetings each month as well as the annual Auxiliary Lenten retreat day.

Each spring the Sisters invite the public to attend the Our Lady of Sorrows Vigil on Holy Saturday. From noon to three we await the resurrection with Our Lady. The three hour vigil is interspersed with songs, meditations, quiet prayer time, and ends with the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. In early summer Our Lady comes to the forefront again during our Novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For nine days the public is welcome to join the Sisters for a talk on Our Lady, a procession to the Church, and a Holy Hour. All are invited to end the novena with a beautiful celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, followed by a tasty breakfast. This year was our 16th public novena.

Even though the Novitiate House is not yet finished, “the farm” has begun to be quite an active site of evangelization. This year the Sisters have hosted the Magdalen (Wichita) 8th grade girls and the 4th grade class from St. Catherine of Siena (Wichita), the Challenge Girls (a leadership club for girls in grades 5th-12th designed to help girls to form friendships

in Christ through formation and apostolate), the Home school teens, the Handmaids of Mary (a high school girls' group established by the IHM's at the three Catholic High Schools where we teach to form young women in imitation of Mary), a Prayer and Action alumni gathering, and a picnic with our Diocesan Seminarians. The Bishop Carroll High School juniors made a "closer-than-Portugal" Fatima pilgrimage as a part of their Church History class. The big events are our biannual Marian processions on 13th of May and October. The Sisters are joined by hundreds of people of all ages for a picnic dinner, a Marian procession to the Fatima shrine, and the recitation of the rosary.

Just like the Apostles, the Sisters don't wait for the people to come to them. The Apostles traveled to the farthest corners of the known world. We may not be able to imitate their mileage, but we do travel to bring the Gospel message to others. You

may find the Sisters at local parishes giving presentations to RCIA groups, teaching Confirmation classes to High School students at St. Anne (Wichita) and St. Mary (Newton), as well as Baptism classes at St. Anne. The Sisters have recently given presentations in Hutchinson's Theology on Tap and a parish Lenten mission at Holy Family (Marian).

Little Flower groups bloom at various parishes, such as St. Francis of Assisi (Wichita) and St. Peter (Schulte), and Sisters can be found cultivating little hearts for Jesus. In March the Sisters take religious life to hundreds of Catholic grade school students at the annual Serra Club 6th grade vocation fairs in Wichita, Hutchinson and Parsons. At the middle school youth rally at St. Francis (Wichita), the Sisters strive to "fire up" the participants with energy and enthusiasm for the Lord. In the spring the Sisters step out of the classroom and lead the High School Junior girl

retreats for Bishop Carroll, Kapaun-Mt. Carmel, and Trinity Catholic High Schools. No

time off in the summer, for summer is camp time – Totus Tuus Camp, that is. During the eight week camp schedule, the Sisters venture out to Lyons, Kansas during the four middle school and high school girl sessions to talk about religious life and discernment.

Vocation talks are a popular calendar item. You can regularly find the Sisters speaking about religious life to grade school and high school groups, not only in Wichita, but also in St. Anthony (Garden Plain), St. Michael (Girard), St. Paul (Lyons), St. Joseph (Ost), St. Patrick (Kingman), Our Lady of Lourdes (Pittsburg), Sacred Heart (Colby), Sacred Heart (Pratt), Most Pure Heart of Mary (Topeka), and other cities throughout Kansas. The Fiat retreat, a discernment retreat held in Wichita this year in January and June, gathered many young women and Sisters of various communities to spend time praying and talking about the call to holiness, openness to God's will, and the beauty of religious life. This year the Sisters also traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma to assist in their Diocesan discernment retreat.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Holy Saturday Vigil with Our Sorrowful Mother

ABOVE: Sister Rose Marie and Sister Marie Therese with the Fort Hays Catholic Disciples

LEFT: Fatima tour at the farm with St. Catherine of Siena 4th grade

All For the Kingdom

Our college ministry included five of our state universities: Wichita State, Ft. Hays State, Pittsburg State, Emporia State, and Kansas State University. Here the Sisters monthly take part in the many activities found at the Catholic Student centers, giving talks, offering spiritual direction, and simply being present to the students for conversation, advice and encouragement. This year, the Sisters also participated in the “Busy Student Retreat” offered by K-State and Pittsburg State. During this week, a Sister can be meeting up to eight college students each day giving spiritual direction and teaching them about prayer and how to follow the Lord in their particular circumstances. A “Busy Person’s Retreat” was offered at St. Anne (Wichita) during Lent, and the Sisters offered their time as spiritual directors, assisting parishioners who were learning the practice of Lectio Divina.

“Because there are many lay people who desire to instruct others in the truths and practices of the Catholic Faith, the Sisters respond readily to the service of helping them to prepare for informed and enthusiastic teaching.” (IHM Directory #56)

Following in the footsteps of Mother Joanne and Sr. Eileen, who, in the early years of the Wichita foundation, traveled to St. Francis (St. Paul) in Southeast Kansas to teach PSR teachers, we have continued to look for opportunities to assist those who teach the Catholic faith. Early summer finds the Sisters at the Totus Tuus team training, helping the college-age team members gain knowledge and develop catechetical methods to present the summer’s religious content at the parish and camp level. This year two Sisters were a part of the Diocesan effort to assist catechists through a program called “Echoing Christ”. They traveled with the Diocesan team to St. Vincent de Paul (Andover), Holy Spirit (Goddard) and St. Patrick (Parsons) in order to present information to those generous volunteers who work in parish catechetical programs.

Our desire to spread the Gospel cannot meet all the requests that we receive. As we grow, we are able to bring Jesus to more schools, more parishes, and more retreat and catechetical events. Please continue to pray that more young women hear the Lord’s invitation to undivided love in religious life, a life that leads one to spread the Gospel message through Kansas and beyond.



Sister Mary Lucia, IHM challenging the Challenge girls



The Sisters are here pictured with Trudy, our six-month-old collie, gift of breeders Luke and Laura Schroeder of Colby, KS, friends of Sister Mary Monica.

A Scholarship to Rome!

Sister Mary Lucia, IHM, and Sister Mary Monica, IHM, who will be professing her first vows in August, received the only two scholarships from the Roman Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life awarded through the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, to attend – all expenses paid – a four day workshop in Rome for young consecrated persons. The workshop will take place in September and will focus on three themes: vocation, fraternal life and mission and will include daily Eucharist, prayer and praise, presentations, dialogue in language groups and meeting with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as well as attending his weekly General Audience. Preceding the workshop the Sisters will also be able to attend a program offered through the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious which will include visiting and learning about all of the religious sites of ancient Rome.

All For the Kingdom



1: Medaling religion bowl participants with their coach, Sister Mary Clare, IHM

2: Sister John Marie, IHM, cultivating the hearts of the Little Flowers

3: A rainy May 13 forced the Fatima procession into the shed

4: Senior Adult Ministry Lenten Retreat with Sister Mary Ann, IHM

5: Seminarians visit the shrine during their picnic at the farm

6: Sister Mary Elizabeth, IHM, presenting at Echoing Christ, a catechetical workshop.



Sister Spotlight

Sister Mary Catherine, the First Postulant in Kansas

What led me, in 1976, a girl formed in the wild sixties and seventies of southern California, to a place called Wichita, KS? At one time, I would never have dreamt I would live as a Sister and did not even know where Wichita was! My good Catholics parents and their six children formed a good Catholic family. My father led us in good discussions at the dinner table, where we ate together; at night, my mother led us in the Rosary. Despite attending a highly progressive public school, after graduation I attended Thomas Aquinas College, where I began deeply praying and connecting with Our Lord. I yearned to give myself to Him as a cloistered nun, and then I met both Mother Joanne and Sr. Eileen. Mother Joanne told me that I could be a contemplative apostle...that Jesus needs apostles who pray. I could become a Bride of Jesus as an active Sister, not only in the cloister.

Convicted, I entered the IHMs several months after the first Sisters settled in Wichita, KS. I spent my postulant year teaching children religion at St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School. After being

formed in the IHM way of life, I professed first vows in 1979 and began to teach at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

In 1980, my Superiors directed me to found the Handmaids of Mary, a group flourishing today, sponsored by three different Sisters in three high schools. Mary clearly founded the Handmaids through my little instrumentality!

My Superiors sent me to both Trinity and Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School, both to pioneer and

to teach. All three high schools provided opportunities to catechize and to teach youth how to think correctly. I am grateful for thirty years of teaching in the diocesan schools. In addition, beginning in 1980, I have taught in the college novitiate classes.

At present, I have the honor of spiritual directing young adult women, helping with college ministry, and teaching philosophy to our young Sisters. What an honor to pray and teach for the Lord ... "How blest I am!"



Novitiate courses range from Prayer Class to Philosophy to the Documents of Vatican Council II. Here the novitiate enjoys a lighter moment amidst their philosophical discussion with their philosophy instructor, Sister Mary Catherine, IHM.

"I am the Lady of the Rosary.

Continue to pray the Rosary every day.

When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery:

*"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell,
lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy."*

*"The Lord wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart
throughout the world. I promise salvation to whoever embraces it;
these souls will be dear to God, like flowers put by Me to adorn his throne."*



Sister Spotlight

First Kansan Postulant Sister Mary Ann Kirkland, IHM

My first contact with the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary came through Fr. Joseph Gorentz, the chaplain at the Newman Center at WSU. The Sisters had come to Wichita just two years earlier and he was their confessor as well as my spiritual director. Recognizing a good fit, he arranged a meeting between Mother Joanne and me in the Center's library. Eventually, after visiting a number of times, I, too, recognized God's providential arrangement and my entrance date was set for the evening of September 7. That night as I was settling into my room, I asked myself, "My God, what have I gotten myself into!?... oh well, I'll give it at least two weeks."

Thirty-seven grace-filled years later, I am still here! I have done things that I never dreamt I would do on that first night, thanks to God's grace and my community's support. I have taught for thirty-two years in three of the four diocesan high schools: Bishop Carroll for nineteen years, Trinity Catholic in Hutchinson for two years and Kapaun-Mt. Carmel, where I will be beginning my twelfth year. I am amazed at how many students I have taught at KMC who are the children of my former students at BC. I am often pleasantly surprised at Parent Walk Through or conferences when I am able to reconnect with past students. My students most frequently bring up "Misty," the wonder cat, which I use to teach the supernatural, preternatural

and natural gifts that Adam and Eve had before the original sin. By the way, she is imaginary not invisible. Many of them also remember Dei Verbum 10: "Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium are so..." can you finish it?

I have also had the grace to study in Rome, including the privilege of attending a private Mass with St. Pope John Paul II. The community sent me to earn two Masters Degrees, one in Catechetics and the other in Dogmatic Theology. I have helped write teacher's resource books for a catechetical series, train catechists, and give talks and retreats locally as well as throughout the United States. I also help, along with some of the other Sisters, with the classes for the novices and postulants.

When I look back at the list of things I have done I can hardly recognize myself! I know, however, that I did not really do anything extra-ordinary, I just tried to be faithful in living our apostolate of prayer and in spreading the Gospel in whatever program obedience directed me to do so.

When I entered in 1978, I was the seventh and youngest member of the community. Fr. Thomas Dubay, SM, gave the community retreat that year and he asked me why I had chosen to enter a small, new community. His question startled me. All I did was follow the desire to belong to Jesus and follow wherever He led. It never occurred to me that it was a risky or daring thing!

When Sister M. Giovanni, the last of our Wichita foundresses, passed away in 2003 I realized I was the second oldest in the community. Soon thereafter, I realized what a blessing I had been given to be called by God to this community during its initial years in Wichita and to be part of a new foundation, watching it grow and prosper in the eyes of the Lord and for the benefit of the Church.



Sister Mary Ann, IHM, pictured introducing a Catechetical presentation.

Estate Planning Reflects the Loves of our Life

by Bronwen Lewis

A number of years ago, inspired by something we heard in church, my husband and I sat down and talked about the importance of developing a plan we would be proud of when we left this worldly life for the eternal kingdom to follow. We settled upon the creation of a Last Will and Testament, with specific instructions as to what should happen upon our deaths.

Naturally, the first component of our plan was to pass all of our earthly belongings to each other at the point in time when the first one of us passed away. Surprisingly, or perhaps not so surprisingly, the second wish we expressed was for a small portion of our estate to be given to our parish and a number of other Catholic organizations, most particularly the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita. So, when we both eventually die, our wishes will be expressed in the form of gifts not only to our children, but also to our parish, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and to at least one other Catholic organization.

As a part of this process, we brought our children into the discussion and let them know how important these wishes were to us ... how these wishes expressed our love and gratitude to these Catholic organizations ... that these wishes were not in any way intended to reflect any displeasure with them ... that, in fact, these wishes were a tribute to them and the persons they had become ... in large part due to the influence these same organizations have had on their own lives.

This experience has been such a positive thing in our lives, we would encourage anyone reading this article to sit down and talk about doing the same thing. Although you should engage the services of an experienced estate planning attorney when you do so, the process is very simple and not extremely expensive. There are many legal, tax and financial benefits to a well-designed estate plan, in addition to

the ability to express your wishes for what you would like to see happen when you die. Your attorney can point these things out to you.

Nobody can tell you which organizations to support ... there are so many choices, and it is such a personal matter. Having said this, I do hope you will consider the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as someone to remember in your charitable giving plans. They are such a joy to me ... they have had such a profound influence on my life, and the lives of my husband and children, I simply must mention it. Forgive me for such a bold request, but I'm sure you understand.

I am most happy to help anyone with this process. I'm certainly not an expert in estate planning, and I am not an attorney, but I believe I can help answer many of your questions, and point you in a direction to follow. Please feel free to call me at 316-722-9316.

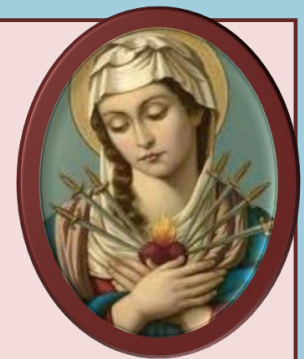
*May the angels lead them
into paradise.*

Memorials have been established
for

Rev. Victor Bieberle
Vernon Eck
Myrtle Gitchell
Clem Lubbers
Mary Lubbers
Mae Rose Patry
Marcellus (Mark) Rupp
Betty Winderlin
George Winderlin
Marie Zienkewicz

Gifts have been given in memory
of

Verna Blanchat
Arthur DePra
Adrian Martin
Dennis Mies
Anna Miller
John Somes
Dick Tucker



“Thank You!”

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM, and Bronwen Lewis take a moment to relax after returning from a meeting. Bronwen has led us every step of the way during this phase of development. Our words of gratitude will never seem sufficient.

Worth 1000 Words ...



Work on the Reredos!

Karl Freund shows Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM, his progress in repairing the altar that will be used in the Novitiate House of Formation. The construction process focuses now on the interior as the countdown continues to the November move in date. For photos of the construction see www.SistersIHMofWichita.org.

Sixteen and Counting!

The annual public novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was another success! 16 years and counting! If you weren't able to attend and would like to read the talks given by the Sisters, they are available on our website: www.SistersIHMofWichita.org.



Welcome, New Novices!

Sister Mary Jane Francis Jackle (right) and Sister Cora Marie Goenner are pictured receiving their copies of the Constitutions of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Mother Mary Magdalene. They became novices, officially beginning their religious lives, on March 25, 2015, the Feast of the Annunciation. May they always say with the Blessed Virgin, "Fiat, be it done unto me according to thy word." They join Sister Mary Monica in the novitiate.

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The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
gratefully acknowledge and deeply appreciate all the
monetary assistance and generous service
of the many councils of the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella
and the numerous parish altar societies who have
assisted us in making the Novitiate House of Formation a reality.

We are deeply indebted to all of you! Thank you so very much!

