

Community Ties

IHM Associates Newsletter

Summer—June 2011

Are you called to be an IHM Associate?

By B.J. Schlachter, IHM Associate

Have you thought about becoming an IHM Associate? This is a question that often comes up when talking with a person that previously was taught by an IHM Sister or had been a former IHM Sister/candidate. Often the answer is, “I feel the IHMs are so much a part of me and I already feel so closely connected that I don’t need to ‘formalize’ our relationship.” It is a very sincere response.

Yes, “formalizing” your relationship to the Congregation may seem to have only a small incremental benefit to you. *However, YOU, as an IHM Associate, are a huge benefit to the IHM community!* You are a wisdom story; your life has deep IHM roots. Therefore, your presence in our IHM community expands the IHM presence wherever you minister, work or play! *You are* the gift that can keep on giving!

The IHM Sisters have gifted many of us with an excellent education, solid values, and a deep desire to be of service to the world. Their gift continues to live on in our adult lives and has been a great influence on the raising of our families. Their gift of themselves now extends beyond the classrooms and into the “messiness” of daily life, national problems, and global issues. Their charisma -- a desire to address the needs of people everywhere -- was first envisioned by their founders; and has evolved in a diversity of ministries and communal directions for peace, justice, and earth-friendly, sustainable living choices.

IHM Mission Statement

*Urged by the love of God
we choose to work with
others to build a culture
of peace and right
relationship among
ourselves, with the
Church, and the whole
Earth community.*

We, the recipients of their gift, can significantly carry the IHM charism forward into the 21st century. Of

course, we can all live the charism without declaring ourselves Associates. *However, as an IHM Associate, YOU can expand the IHM Community beyond the outreach of a dwindling number of IHM Sisters with diminishing energies.* This is a time to “pay back” to the IHM Sisters by partnering an IHM future together. ***Carry on their torch of love by becoming an IHM Associate spark!***

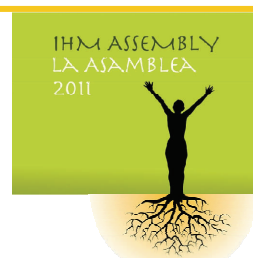


Annual Associate Gathering Sept. 17

Associates will get together in the Community Room of the IHM Motherhouse on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for our Annual Associate Gathering. This year’s theme, A New Day, will focus on how the IHM Associates’ new vision is moving forward, on our new leadership model, on future opportunities and on reflections of the outcomes of the Assembly and how we, as Associates, will integrate the outcomes in our own lives.

See you at ...

All Associates are encouraged to be in Monroe July 26-29 for the Assembly Days. At this time, the Community of IHM will come together to discuss and reflect on who we are and our vision for the IHM future. As we *live* into a transformative partnership with the Congregation, let us show our support and commitment to living the IHM charism *together*. Please return your registration form before **July 1**. A copy of the registration forms are on the IHM website, www.ihmsisters.org in the community section.



Sister Survivors

Relay for Life Monroe

By Mary Ellen Hochkins, IHM Associate

On Saturday, June 4, IHM Sisters, Associates and Friends gathered at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. It was the opening of the annual Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society. We joined the larger Monroe community to “Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back” in the battle against cancer. Our team had many



participants which made for a very successful walk. All were united in one heart from the opening ceremony, by the many walkers, to the silent prayerfully moving luminary service, through the night vigil, and concluding with the closing prayer service in the gentle breeze of the morning. The only way I can describe the power of those 24 hours is that for me it was truly living Eucharist.

Recognizing Kindred Spirits

By Holly Knight,
IHM Associate

I sat among 135 people at the *IHM Mentors of Sustainable Living Award*



banquet on May 5. We gathered in a beautifully elegant and spring-flavored ambience in the Triple Dining Room at the Motherhouse – ivory table cloths, spring-green linens and spider mums, sipping wine from a local winery and socializing to the sound of a fine, jazz trio.

Meandering along both sides of the dining room entrance, display boards showcased all of the nominees for the

award and their work. Guests swarmed around the displays, moved by the magnitude of the work of building a just, sustainable and peaceful world. The nominees, from all over the United States, Mexico, Canada and South Africa, represented all aspects of sustainability – social, environmental, economic and spiritual.

The IHM community presented the award to The Pachamama Alliance, a nonprofit composed of the leaders of remote indigenous groups in Ecuador and a group of people in the modern world. The alliance’s work merges North-South worldviews and has reached hundreds of thousands of people in 50 countries on six continents and in at least nine

languages. A brief video of their work astonished everyone in the room.

I like to think of the evening as more of a gala because of the level of high energy generated by the stories and exchanges with one another and the recognition that we are kindred spirits on this transformational path, partners in this “great work” of creating a future of hope.

But it was even more than that for me. I think it may have been an eye-opening experience for some guests who may not have been familiar with today’s missions and ministries in Catholic women’s religious communities. In that sense, we built bridges in addition to regenerating one another’s journeys.



Seated at the winner’s table at the IHM Mentors of Sustainable Living Award banquet are (left to right): Carol Quigley, IHM; IHM President Mary Fran Gilleran; David Orr, keynote speaker; Judy Leaf, representing award winner The Pachamama Alliance; and Rose Huelsman, IHM, who nominated The Pachamama Alliance.

Monica Says...

By Monica Stuhlreyer, IHM,
Associate Coordinator

Farewell, So long, Aufwiedersehen, Goodbye!



My dear associate friends,

I wanted to say a farewell to all of you now that my time is ended and we have two new folks, Kathy Russeau, IHM Associate Coordinator, and Anne Mamienski, IHM, as the Associate Mentor who are ready to take on the leadership for you!

I have so enjoyed my seven years working with you, meeting you as you planned and made your covenants, working with you on the annual gatherings, working with many of you on the Associates Council, and reading your IHM Associate

Commitment forms in which you told me how you are living out the IHM spirit in your daily lives. I have also enjoyed going with some of you to the NACAR conventions every two years, where we were able to connect with other associates from other communities, not the least of which was our sister community of the IHMs in Scranton. All of these events have been very special for me, and I will miss you at these times.

I know, however, that you are moving toward the future and something new, and I trust that the Holy Spirit will lead you into the NEW with energy and openness.

Blessings to you all! I am so grateful for my time in service to you and the Community.

Your Sister,

Monica

Welcome your new IHM Associate leaders



Kathy Russeau, IHM Associate—
Associate Coordinator

Anne Mamienski, IHM—
IHM Associate Mentor



Thanks so much to everyone who conveyed compliments and congratulatory remarks regarding the spring issue of *Community Ties*. Your support is heart warming! Yet there was one glaring omission – no associate sent us anything. What does that say about our efforts ?

This newsletter is to be about Associates, for the community of IHM, to promote the IHM Associates Vision Statement. *All Associates* are urged to send in articles, poetry, prayers, personal stories, photos, etc., to the Associate Coordinator's office. And, yes, tell us how we can improve this newsletter to serve you better!

IHM Associates *Vision Statement*

*We,
the IHM Associates,
are an emerging expression
of the IHM charism
in prophetic service to God.
We are called to partner
with the IHM Sisters
to foster an evolving,
vibrant IHM Community
and to grow
together and with others
in the Spirit.*

**Associates are asked to serve for
IHM LA ASAMBLEA- ASSEMBLY**
From Rita Carey, IHM Associate

A couple of months ago, a call went out to all Associates asking for volunteers for the upcoming Assembly in July. There was a good response. Anyone who volunteered for a committee, your name was forwarded to the chairperson of that committee.

The Registration Committee has been filled. I have been asked to coordinate the Hospitality Committee. Because of my recent knee surgery, I haven't completed the time schedule but I will be e-mailing (and snail-mailing) it soon to those who volunteered for the Hospitality Committee.

If you did not volunteer but are available during the week to help, just let me know. We have room for more to serve.

**IHM Associates to hostess
Ice Cream Social during
ASSEMBLY**

Thank you to all who volunteered to hostess our Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 27, 7 to 9 p.m. We can still use more volunteers. We will be serving ice cream with various toppings, drinks (lemonade and water) and cookies.

I have set up a schedule for 1) serving ice cream; 2) managing toppings (including hot fudge); 3) serving drinks and cookies; and 4) set up and clean up.

If you are assigned to one of these groups, you will not be expected to serve for the whole event. We will break into three 30-minute groups. We may ask you to also assist with set up and clean up. Details will be forthcoming. You will be contacted

after the first of July with schedules.

If you need more information or have questions on *volunteering during Assembly*, do not hesitate to contact me by email: ritamae45@gmail.com or by phone 313-319-4335. This will be a fun event and a great Associate opportunity to serve.

This will also be an opportunity for individuals to say farewell to Monica and offer a warm welcome to our two new leaders, Kathy and Anne.



**A Visualization Prayer for
The IHM Assembly and beyond**

By Karen Kerrigan, IHM Associate

(The scripture comes from our Prelude II: "The Journey to Newness:" article. The Tree of Life saying comes from Our Woman Tree of Life card.)

I invite us to prayerfully build, a mind and heart's eye, picture. How will our IHM community look incarnating the scripture Isaiah 43:19? I encourage us to visualize with our sense of sight as well as with our third eye, our intuitive eye.

*"Be alert, be present.
Behold,
I'm about to do something brand-new.
It's bursting forth!
Don't you see it?
Don't we see it?
There it is! Look!"*

Dear Ones, Have you not seen this?
Our Community of IHM has;
Deep roots, anchored in courage
A strong trunk and wisdom stories,
With Fruitful branches, that risk and reach.
Our Community is a Tree of Life!

Ponder:

What kind of images and actions are you seeing in your heart and mind for our IHM Community?
What do you see happening as our assembly and chapter gatherings are occurring?
What do you see happening after our assembly and chapter are over?
What does your intuitive third eye see?
In our inner room, what do we see, Our Beloved Life Giving Spirit, guiding us to do?
How do we see our Beloved, Life-Giving Spirit traveling with us on the journey, as we move outward from our heart center?

*Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary*

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