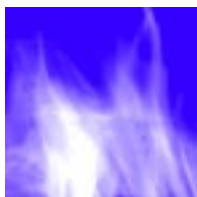


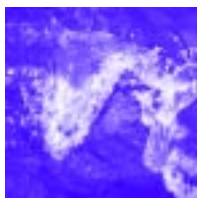
Mission for the Millennium



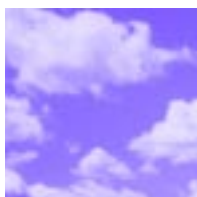
earth



fire



water



air



spirit

Q & A Frequently Asked Questions

IHM Motherhouse and Monroe Campus Renovation

What is sustainability?

The concept of sustainability is used to combine concern for the well-being of the planet with continued growth and human development. The World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Acknowledging that the Earth is a living organism, sustainability embraces the idea that all of creation has the right to thrive and flourish. It is lived out through choices that commit to wise, appropriate and efficient use of resources, so that population and demand do not outrun or damage the environment’s long-term ability to support life. For the IHM community, sustainability is a spiritual and moral mandate in this 21st century.

What is the “Monroe Campus?”

The 280-acre campus, approximately one-quarter mile wide and almost one mile deep, is one of the largest single site areas in the city of Monroe. The campus is home to the IHM Motherhouse, St. Mary Center and Visitation Spirituality Center. The space also includes 35 acres of native woodlands including an oak savanna, managed lawns, open meadow, 100 acres of leased farmland, an organic garden, a 5-acre cemetery and a 3-acre pond. The buildings, roads and parking areas occupy over 18 acres. The 4-acre Sisters Island is located across West Elm Avenue, on the River Raisin.

What is the IHM vision for the Monroe Campus?

The mission of the IHM community is to continue the transforming mission of Jesus Christ through education, advocacy for people and eco-justice. Our vision for the Monroe Campus is that it will continue as a place of transformation through education, serving as a 21st century center of sustainable living and learning.

Why did the IHM community choose to renovate rather than build a new Motherhouse?

Built in 1932 during the Great Depression, the 376,000 square foot structure with 18-inch concrete and brick walls was deemed by architects and engineers to be built solidly enough to last into the 23rd century. The building’s historical and spiritual significance and beauty, as well as the environmental impact of demolition and rebuilding, were all important considerations in discerning the future of the building as a home and health care center for IHM Sisters and future residents. The IHM community thus chose an “environmentally responsive sustainable design,” renovating the indoors and restoring the campus as one sustainable and cohesive system.



Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

610 West Elm Avenue • Monroe, Michigan 48162 • (734)241-3660 • www.ihmsisters.org