



The HEARTBEAT

The Final Edition

Celebrating IHM's History and Memories



September 12, 2021

What is the *HEARTBEAT*?

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. The original HEARTBEAT'S motto/logo was "The Pulse of Your Parish." It began as a monthly publication and ended as a quarterly one. It usually contained a listing of Staff and Parish Council members, a note from the Pastor, updates on what was happening in the parish, biographies of the staff and others, together with articles of interest written by parishioners. This edition remembers IHM with a bit of history, a few photos, and many shared memories. It is the collaborative effort of MANY and we thank each and every one of you! Now, we hope you, the readers, enjoy it!!

In this Issue:

What is the HEARTBEAT?

Parish History

Photo History of the IHM
Pastors & Deacons

Parish Organizations

IHM Memories & Pictures
from Parishioners

*To every person who has crossed
the threshold of our beloved parish
through the years, we hope you
always felt welcomed and at home
with God's love reflected by all here!*

The HEARTBEAT



A Brief History of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

On May 25, 1948 the Decree of Erection of the Parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary was issued. The first church building was a barn on the parish property, and the pastor resided in the original farmhouse. These buildings were the center of parish services, social activities, meetings, etc. In February of 1954 permission was given for construction of a basement church, with plans for the future addition of a school on top of the church. The church was blessed and dedicated on May 8, 1955.

(See Memory section for a story about one of the original pews.)

The parish grew and prospered. In 1998 the need for renovation of the existing property became evident based on changes in liturgical norms and to meet the ever growing needs of parishioners, a priority that emerged during the Strategic Planning process of the parish. The planning moved forward and the final masses in the "old church" were held the weekend of March 10/11, 2001.

Weekend masses during the renovation took place at Nathan Hale high school in West Allis and we returned to the renovated facilities on December 2, 2001. On February 10, 2002, Bishop Richard Sklba presided at the blessing and dedication of the renovated worship space.

During the renovation stage, a disastrous fire struck the parish offices and pastor's residence (May 8, 2001). A scented candle left burning in an office was the culprit. The residence reopened Christmas Eve, 2001 and the offices in January, 2002. The current MPH offices are located here.

Many changes and improvements were made to the IHM worship space during the renovation in order to create an environment of welcome, community, and worship. An addition to the building exterior provided a gathering area, a bell tower, a handicap accessible entrance, and an elevator with access to the church, hall and school classrooms.

The three bells in the tower were cast in Baltimore in 1886, 1909, and 1926. They are or may be rung as a call to worship, for the Angelus (8am, noon, 6pm), to toll for funerals, and to peal at weddings.

The baptismal font (based on a design from a church in Jerusalem and reflected by the same cross design in the ceiling) offers the means of baptism by immersion for adults and older youth, with a bowled font for infants and small children. With a central entrance, all are invited to sign themselves with water upon entering the church.

The Altar, Ambo and accompanying candle holders are all original designs with the Altar and Ambo containing marble from the former altar and inlays of marble from the walls of the old Sanctuary. The statues of the Blessed Mother and Sacred Heart are approximately 110 years old and from the original church. They were refurbished and placed on marble bases that were the legs of the old altar. Their marble backgrounds were taken from the wall of the old Sanctuary. The image of Christ, a wood carving, was also refurbished and hangs in the Eucharistic Chapel. It was made in the South Tyrol of the Alps through the Moroder family.

The Sanctuary Crucifix and the Stations of the Cross are color-bonded bronze created by Wiktor Szostalo. A Polish artist, he came to the US in 1983 and now has studios in both the US and Poland.



A stained-glass window was added in 2004 to the Eucharistic Chapel. It was designed by Dennis Horbinski and executed by Potente Studios. It symbolizes the connection between the Eucharist and everlasting life. Its design incorporates the wheat and wine of the Eucharist blended in with the butterfly symbols of the resurrection being guided by the Spirit (the dove) upward to eternal life and everlasting union with the Divinity. In 2005 a Butterfly Garden was planted outside the Eucharistic Chapel by Ray Sullivan and Herb Tutkowski. Herb lived across the street and cared for the garden up until 2019. The garden was used frequently for wedding pictures and funeral gatherings. Sadly, this past year it has not been cared for due to a lack of volunteers.

Since music is such an important part of liturgies, the renovation team took great care to spatially accommodate choir members, larger groups when needed, the organ, baby grand piano, synthesizer/keyboard and a full drum set. The music area behind the altar creates room for the bell choir and additional instrumentalists. The sound system was also updated for the music area and sanctuary to allow presiders and others to have lavalier/lapel microphones so that they may walk around.

A special thank you should be extended to our Women's Ministry group who provided funds to remodel, renovate and update the Hall Kitchen and Hall area as well as many donations towards the worship area. The end goal was to make the parish buildings and grounds as inspiring and welcoming as our parishioners are!

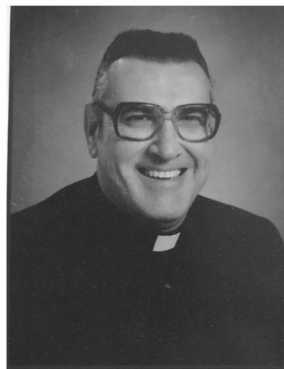
A PHOTO HISTORY of IHM PASTORS, and DEACONS



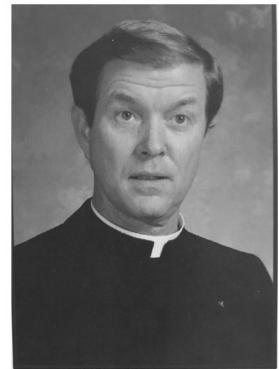
Fr. Raymond Welter
1948-1965



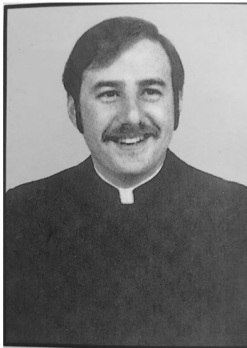
Fr. Leroy Dierbeck
1966-1978



Fr. Robert Surges
1979-1986



Fr. Joseph Coerber
1986-1990



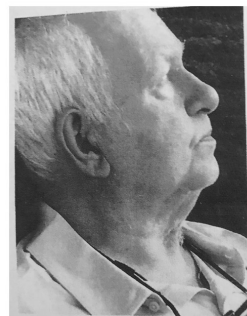
Fr. Charles Wheatley
1990-1994



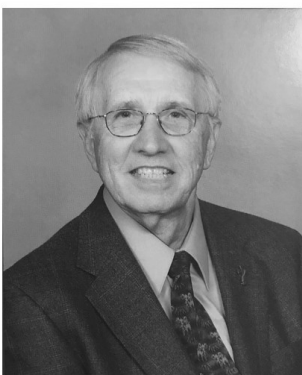
Fr. Karl Schneider
1994-2011



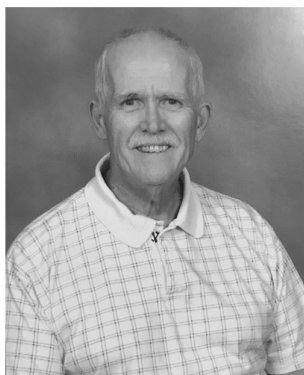
Fr. Jeffrey Prasser
2011-2021



Deacon Raymond Kaczmarek
Ordained 1990



Deacon Dennis Fietz
1978-2011



Deacon Walt Henry
1978-Present



Deacon Keith Marx
2007-Present



Deacon Keith & Kathy
Celebrated their 50th Wedding
Anniversary in August, 2021

IHM EVENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

We have tried to include as many of these as possible but needless to say, we may have missed a few! Please peruse and enjoy, and if you think of ones we did miss, please feel free to contact us and maybe we will post an update!

The IHM Bell Choir

Most people go through life without thinking about ringing handbells in church. Such was the case for me, until up popped an opportunity I couldn't resist. The Mutsch family made a generous donation to IHM which funded the purchase of a large set of handbells, and the rest is history!

Several parishioners and I came forward to form a small bell choir, and today this group of ringers is fondly known as the Ding-a-Lings. The bell choir's mission is to enhance our masses with interesting bell music, helping to create a more prayerful ambience. The ringers benefit even more from their ringing than the parishioners, though. They come from various walks of life, and they have different hobbies and interests, yet they join together for the sole purpose that truly unites them: the desire to provide a unique sound to enhance the worship service. I feel blessed to have been a part of this very special group of people over the years. We have become family for each other.

Joyce Ballard

Bread Baking Committee

In 1979, at the request of the Liturgy Committee and Father Jim Penczykowski, a search began for a recipe to make Eucharist Bread that would resemble real food, rather than the 'flat coins' of the hosts. Under the leadership of Mary Ellen Gallun, several recipes were tested and volunteers offered to make enough bread for use at every liturgy. The loaves were baked in 6 inch rounds and scored into about 100 small pieces to be broken at Mass. There were more than twenty volunteers, both men and women, ranged in age from 18 to 80. Ann Lindblom guided the group for years until 2001 when she handed the reins to Trish Andrae. The ministry ended in 2011. Bread-bakers felt an especial closeness to the liturgy and a real sense of commitment and community.

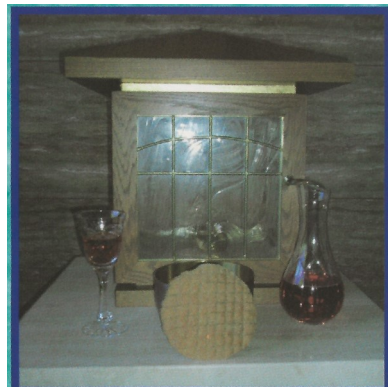
Trish Andrae

The Book Buzz

We are a group primarily of women, who have met about every 6 weeks since 2005. We discuss a book which a member of the group suggests. We first met at I.H.M and then at members' homes, a garage during the Pandemic and Bethany. We only have food once a year, which is a simple salad supper held in Aug. where each of us brings something to share. At times our varied tastes in books lead to lively discussions, which provides interesting meetings.

Karen Fuchs

Photo from August, 2021



Children's Liturgy of the Word

With the youth of our parish in mind, IHM offered Children's Liturgy of the Word for several years. Young children (K5-Grade 3) were called forth during the 9:30 Mass before the readings and were led by the Catechist to the parish hall. They would gather to share the Word of God in a way that was understandable and meaningful to them. Sometimes the Gospel was read aloud, sometimes it was acted out. Afterward, there were discussions, art projects, worksheets to further experience and share the message of that week's readings. The children liked to help with reading the Gospel story, the responses and also liked to share their prayer petitions. It was wonderful to see that older children continued to attend and were great helpers for the younger ones.

The children would rejoin their families and the rest of the assembly in church prior to the Eucharist. When possible, the children enjoyed bringing up the gifts to the altar. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiastic participation and to see them grow in faith.

Thanks and blessings to all of the volunteers that made this special ministry possible and to all of the children that joined us over the years.

Dawn Leonardelli

Christmas Giving Tree

For many years IHM has put a Christmas tree up in the Gathering Area right after Thanksgiving. The tree has paper ornaments with wish lists from various groups that the Parish helps out each Advent Season. There have been many different groups and each year the Gathering Area is fill with bags and boxes from our very generous parish members. By the second week of Advent, the donations are gathered and delivered to the groups so that they may distribute them to their designated recipients. This tradition continued through the clustering and eventual merger process and hopefully will never end.

Crossroads South Meal Program (formerly Southside Meal Program)

Mother of Perpetual Help's St. Vincent DePaul Society (MPH) makes the meals for the homeless to be served at Tenth and Madison every fifth Friday and fifth Sunday (about four Fridays and four Sundays a year). The meals for the homeless consist of 14 ice cream buckets of Jell-O and six large containers of tuna casseroles. The ingredients are supplied by the MPH food pantry.

This program was started by IHM St. Vincent De Paul Society before I was a member of the society. I have been helping with the meal program for over 25 years and have seen a few changes in that time. When I first started, we made six tuna casseroles on the fifth Fridays and six ham casseroles on the fifth Sundays. We have always made the Jell-O. At that time the casseroles and Jell-O were made in private homes. Later the Jell-O and tuna casseroles were made in the IHM kitchen. Youth volunteers and their parents made the Jell-O and the Christian Women made the casseroles. Since Covid 19, we had to make everything at the site at Tenth and Madison and this required us to change the ham casseroles to only tuna casseroles.

When I joined, we worked in conjunction with Greenfield Park Lutheran Church but they ran out of volunteers and had to drop out of the program some ten years ago.

It is a very rewarding experience to help the less fortunate. I met dedicated workers and volunteers. I see people struggling. My heart goes out to many of these struggling persons, especially the children. I believe struggling with these persons makes me more human. As of right now we do not have enough volunteers for the program. We may have to drop out of the program, and I feel disappointed because of this.

John Donovan

IHM Parish Festival

- Unpredictable weather
 - Happy faces everywhere
 - Painted faces, arms and hands
 - Balloons in amazing shapes
 - Fantastic food
 - Great rides
 - Best volunteers ever
 - Great for all ages
 - Amazing music
 - A great deal of work
 - Wonderful community spirit
 - Total exhaustion on the last day
 - Many, many thanks to the multiple festival chairpersons, tent leaders, numerous volunteers over the years
- Priceless memories!



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is an outreach of the parish, the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference (originally IHM and now MPH), and Hunger Task Force. It is housed in the old convent building (Bethany) with food support coming from the parish, community members, local food drives, Hunger Task Force, and recently the Meijer "Simply Give" campaigns. The food is distributed twice a week (Wednesdays and Saturdays) to members in need from our parish and the community at large. They receive a week's worth of non-perishables, bread, and meat. Dairy and fresh produce and other miscellaneous items can be chosen by patrons when they are available. The pantry is a collaborative effort of many and requires Vincentian and community volunteers to run efficiently. We are blessed to be able to provide this service.

Fish Fry

In approximately 2005, a group of interested parish members approached some parishioners from Mary Queen of Heaven about offering the same fish fry dinners at IHM that those parishioners were servicing at MQH. That resulted in a few years of fish fry dinners at IHM until the MQH parishioners felt they could no longer provide the service. In February of 2008, some IHM parishioners elected to start running fish fry dinners sponsored by and run for the parish. Each fish fry season thereafter ran from September or October until the parish festival in May. The dinners were suspended during the pandemic but will resume in October. A typical dinner event utilizes 35 volunteers plus additional volunteers baking desserts, purchasing inventory, and cleaning. Over the years IHM has been blessed with volunteers from St. Aloysius, Mary Queen of Heaven, Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Holy Apostles parishes. Overall, the fish fry dinners have been affordable social events for the community.



Jim & Deb Peterson

Heartbeat editorial:

IHM Fish Fry dinners have become one of the best community building events IHM has ever had (and we have had and have many). The event combines the hard work of the Peterson family (4 generations of them were working at one time—RIP to those who have passed on, they are missed!), all the volunteers (who have become a family) and the thousands who have carried out or come to eat in the IHM Hall. The food and conversation are amazing. We have even had holiday decorations and music. Thank you all!

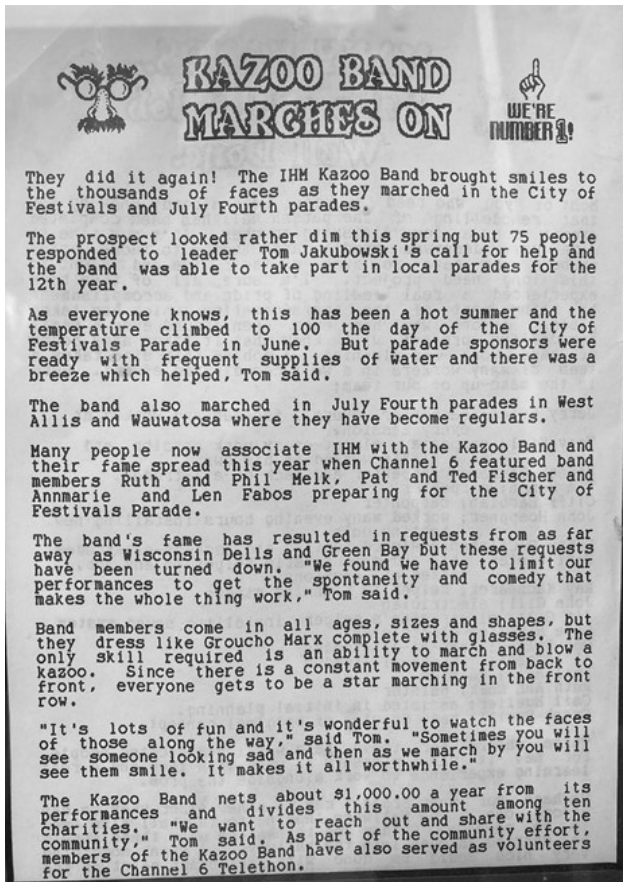


The blue encircled Madonna is the original professional graphic design MPH Logo that was created shortly after the merger in 2018 with the blessing and input of pastors Fr. Jeff, Fr. Thomas and the Evangelization Committee. This logo, patterned after the Mother of Perpetual Help icon, included 3 colors (red, green, and yellow) and 3 stars to represent the 3 merged parishes, together with blue for Mary, and the name, city, and state all included in one piece. It was used until Fr. Thomas was assigned to his new parish in Racine when a new logo was designed and is now in use.

IHM's Kazoo Band (Perhaps the most unique IHM organization)

The band was the brainchild of Tom Jakubowski who led the band with his golf club and huge red tie. The first appearance was in the West Allis Parade in 1978. We all wore Groucho glasses, pith helmets and black vests with 'tails.' Black pants and tennis shoes completed the outfit. We had a big bass drum to keep us in step...mostly. And a banner identifying us as the IHM Kazoo Band. In the early years, all age groups were represented. There were even infants in strollers in the formation. If there was a lull in the parade, Tom took us over to the side of the street and pretended that someone had yelled out a request. We played requests: but they were always "Let Me Call You Sweetheart!" Our song rotation changed over the years and we settled in on J-O-Y-G. *When Johnny Comes Marching Home, On Wisconsin, Yankee Doodle Dandy and God Bless America.* After each song, we marched straight for 4 counts and then went into the duck walk for 4 counts before jumping up and yelling "Yay!" After Tom's untimely death, leaders were Dick Wutt and Chuck Wilkie. Our last parade was in Wauwatosa in 2011, where we had graced the 4th of July parade every year since 1979. We pretty much 'aged' out of our marching perfection!

Trish & Dan Andrae



Sharing a 'snap shot' in time of the IHM Kazoo band.

The only thing I would add to this article is that personally my Dad (Tom Jakubowski) would be nervous every year! He wanted this band to make the community laugh and be proud of faith, friendship, and generosity. My brothers and I still crack up at how ridiculous and lovely our Dad was, with Joyce always his first muse. It is that sense of humor, love, and community that will always stay with us when we think of our years in school and church at Immaculate Heart of Mary, with Dad always leading our way!

DeAnna (Jakubowski) O'Grady



H.O.L.Y. LOOMERS

(Hooked On Looming Yarn)

Established in 2011, IHM's *Holy Loomers* Ministry began with the simple idea of creating hats and scarves on looms to keep others warm. It was the idea of one woman, Connie Christensen. In the late fall of each year, the loving work of our hands were distributed to various groups and to anyone in need of our creations. Due to special requests made of our group, we branched off and our donations began to include purchased mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, handmade mittens and booties, fleece blankets, and sleeves for dialysis patients. Some of the more enthusiastic members even sat down with Clara Weinberger and learned the art of crocheting to help the *Prayer Shawl Ministry* which then led to the making of baby blankets for **Barb's Baby Ministry**. Our gifts were distributed to the patrons at our IHM food pantry, The Southside Meal Program, the baby ministry, Fresenius Dialysis Center, Froedtert Hospital, The House of Peace and to the organizations supported by IHM through the IHM Giving Tree.

We met only once a month, but many special friendships developed over the years and there are lifelong friendships that exist because of this Ministry. We shared a lot at these meetings, we learned about each other's medical problems, families and the healthiest desserts to make!!! Several of the *Holy Loomers* even got coaxed into becoming involved in another of IHM's very important volunteer groups - the wonderful, dedicated volunteers for our *IHM fish fries!!!!*

I think I can speak for everyone that we feel truly blessed to be a part of this group of wonderful women. It was a great feeling to spread a little love, in the form of warmth, all over our community. *Judy Johnson*



IHM Hosted a Laotian Family

When the Vietnam War ended, many families in Laos were in danger because they had helped US troops during the war. In 1979, IHM joined the effort to help Laotians make their homes in the US. A committee spearheaded by Pat Fischer was formed and we were assigned two families headed by adult sisters. Their husbands were in prisoner-of-war camps. Together they had 9 children under the age of 16, along with their 18 year old brother. The committee housed them at first in Bethany House and then found apartments in West Allis, jobs, health care, and schools for the families. We have kept in touch with these fine people and attended weddings, graduations, funerals and get-togethers over the years. Those 'children' now have children of their own; many have college degrees, own their own homes, own a business (the restaurant "Sticky Rice" in Racine). The picture above was taken in 2018. The youngest in the photo, Tom, was valedictorian of his high school class.

Trish Andrae, for the Keil, Stuberg, Fischer, Carey and other IHM families

Medical Closet

Many years ago the IHM Parish Nurse, Dorothy Wutt, began to gather many items that parishioners donated and then she would distribute them to others who she knew were in need of them. She did this out of her home and garage for years until this became too difficult. At that point the "closet" moved to Bethany where it is managed by several parishioners. Anyone in need is welcome to borrow or keep (for no charge) any of the items they may be in need of. We also welcome donations of clean, new or gently used items.

History of the IHM Tigers Men's Softball Team

During an athletic banquet at IHM, Father Allen Vogt encouraged me to start a men's softball team. With a glint in his eye, he said: "It's your cross, Dan! Pick up your cross." The rest is history. The team played in the West Allis Rec Department League from 1978 to the present, although it is no longer an IHM-sponsored team. Russ Stone played on the first team and his pharmacy bought the shirts and continued as a sponsor for years. In the beginning both Fr. Al and Fr. Jim Penczykowski played on the team, along with Deacons Walt Henry, Mike Woyak and Dennis Fietz; eventually Deacons Mike Chmielewski and Keith Marx played as well. The stands usually held several cheering IHM parishioners. Several families fielded father-son combinations: Schram, Marx, Ganas, Andrae, Buchta, Chmielewski, Fraundorf, and Jakubowski. The most exciting year for the team was 1993, when the IHM Tigers won the All-City West Allis Tournament by winning four games in a row on Saturday, June 6th. We became the first – and only – church team ever to win the tournament out of a 64 team field. IHM Tigers Forever!

Dan Andrae

IHM Men's Scripture Group

For a number of years IHM had a men's group that gathered early on Saturday mornings every week to discuss and study the Sunday readings along with additional spiritual works.

At the same time, a few men at Mary Queen of Heaven (MQH) had also joined to read and reflect on the Sunday's Liturgy Readings on Saturdays. When our three parishes were deciding to join as one parish, these men extended an invitation to the men at IHM to participate in these sessions.

Jim Murphy, one of the organizers of the MQH group, contacted me with a plan. The men at MQH and the men at IHM would meet together at alternating sites, with one week at IHM and the other week at MQH. Thus, IHM Men's Scripture Group was formed. The IHM group meets every other week at the 116th site in the Bethany House on Saturday at 7 AM to read and reflect on Sunday's Liturgy Readings. The following week the men meet at MQH at 7 AM to do the same. Most men do not attend both sessions but participate at either the IHM site or at the MQH site. The IHM Group is a small group even for a scripture session. The men who participate are normally the same men, however. We know each other quite well and we all believe that Jesus Christ is the answer. It is a matter of reflecting on the scriptures and learning to ask the right questions. We always welcome new participants.

John Donovan



1993 IHM Tigers (15 - 3)
West Allis - West Mil. All - City Tournament Champions
WA - WM Church League Co - Champions

L to R Front Row: Tony Chmielewski, Brad Ganas, Neal Andrae, 2nd Row: Tom Kiensel, Ed Svetz, Tim Brown, Tom Andrae, 3rd Row: Gregg Ganas, Dan Andrae, Mike Chmielewski.
Missing: John Couture, Mike Jakubowski, Keith Marx, Joe Mozina, and Fred Petersen III.

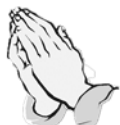
Prayer Shawl

We have been in existence for 13 years, to make shawls and pray over the finished ones and those in progress. We also include in prayer those who have received the shawl, that God will continue to bless and help them.

Our Group has made over 1,000 shawls for use by our parishes. In that same time we made an additional 1,000 from Kits provided by Froedtert Hospital along with 500 plus Pocket Prayer Shawls for people using the Chapel for tangible proof of God's love and comfort. We have also donated to Zilber Hospice.

My Prayer Shawl Creators have made well over 2,000 shawls. Right now we have on hand about 38+ shawls waiting for someone in need of a one in our parish.

Clara Weinberger



Resurrection Choir

I'm not sure when this ministry started, but I was invited to join around 5 years ago.

As the name implies, we sing at funerals and anyone can join. We have no rehearsals and almost all of the songs we sing, we all know.



Someone calls you to let you know when the funeral is, and if you can be there, that is great! If not, we hope you can be there for the next one.

We are always looking for new members, so if you like to sing, please join us.

Mary Margaret Marshall

HOSPITALITY

I've learned many lessons over the years since I took over IHM's "Hospitality Sunday" ministry.

I am pretty much an introvert. I don't seek help for tasks that are presented to me, I try to do it myself. I'm in control. I also find that it is hard to say 'No' when someone asks me for help, especially from church. So when I was asked to take over the Hospitality Program, I was stunned, but I couldn't say 'No'.

I dove in, using the blueprint I was given to me by the previous crew and I made less than the stipend I was given.

I was embarrassed that I had LOST money for the church. When I turned in my receipts and the proceeds from Hospitality, I apologized to Dennis Fietz, who was the Finance Manager at that time. He replied to me that Hospitality was not a money-making program in the eyes of the parish at that time --- it was envisioned to be a community building effort and if it brought people together, then it had achieved its goal. That became my goal. I had the general plan from the people who had previously done the program, but quickly learned from people like Ruth Ann Melk and Mary Margaret Marshall how to make the operation more efficient, and with my OCD to find the BEST, at the best prices.

We have provided our parish a vehicle to bring people together, and for that I am forever thankful to those who asked me to serve and all who benefited from my service.



I once was asked why I would do this for so long. I reply that I'm having a party for my friends and I don't have to pay for it.

Dennis



Jablonski

IHM School, School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Bethany House

The school was founded in 1959 and the School Sisters of Notre Dame were active there until 1979. 33 SSND worked at the school and Sr. Rosemary Bonk and Sr. Karel Patin later worked at the parish as well. 29 of the SSND sisters lived in the convent.

According to a parish history, construction on the convent started in 1964. I checked the convent chronicles and there is a note that nothing was typed for the 1964-1965 school year and the information found was based on notes left for the chronicle. Ground was broken for the convent on July 2, 1963 and the sisters moved in on June 13, 1964 and 29 of them lived there. I was hoping there would be information about the dedication of the convent, which might mention why it was given the name Bethany, but there wasn't anything. From what I've seen in other chronicles, the convent name sometimes referred to the patron saint on the feast day in which the convent opened. I checked the pre-Vatican II feast days and July 2 was the Visitation of the BVM and June 13 was St. Anthony of Padua – so no connection there. I also checked the province chronicle to see if that mentioned anything and it doesn't.

Michele Levandoski, MLIS, MA
Archivist

School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives

HEARTBEAT NOTE:

The old convent, still known as *Bethany*, (which seems like the perfect name given its current uses), now houses many of the former IHM and now MPH ministries. After the school closed the building was used for festival storage and Religious Education classes, as well as the Food Pantry.

Today the first floor houses the MPH Food Pantry, MPH Helping Hands (formerly the IHM Women's Ministry), items to put together Dignity Kits for *Project Return*, HOLY Loomers, Prayer Shawl ministry, and a Living Room and Kitchen utilized by all the first floor ministries.

The second floor houses Barb's Baby Ministry, the Medical Closet and a room housing records for the Rainbow Gardens Neighborhood Organization (the neighborhood where the building is located).

The basement that used to house all the "stuff" from the IHM Festival, now houses a studio used by parishioner Bob Hudy to teach music.

Sister Cecilia Klar Education Fund

A scholarship was established in 1974 in honor of Sr. Cecilia Klar SSND who had been the IHM School Principal. She had died in 1973 from complications of diabetes. The scholarship was to benefit an eighth grade student whose parents were members of IHM to help defray the tuition costs to a Catholic High School for one year.

Over the years of 1974 to 1988, fifteen students were awarded the scholarship. The committee consisted of five members—three parishioners, one SSND representative and one non parish member. The amount of the award started at \$500 (1974-81), \$600 (1983- 87), \$700 (1985- 87), and \$725 -(1988).

Joan Gaska

Taizé & Other Church Happenings

Throughout IHM's history, we have collaborated with other groups and congregations to bring unique liturgical services to our parish. At one time we did Easter sunrise services with Greenfield Park Lutheran Church. In 2009 and 2010 we did Advent and Lenten Taizé with both Greenfield Park Lutheran and Gethsemane Lutheran. In 2017 we brought a national tour with Frank Runyeon to perform and filled our worship space for a production of the *Sermon on the Mount and Hollywood vs. Faith*. For several years we had displays of creche scenes that belonged to our pastor and numerous parishioners, in the Gathering Area, Library Area outside of the Hall, and once over at MQH in the Notre Dame Room.

IHM Seniors

The IHM Senior Organization has been part of our parish for many years. In the beginning there were between 100 and 200 members. They included special gala affairs at times. In later years, thanks to the efforts of Marge O'Callahan, the organization took bus tours to various businesses to tour their operations, such as Sara Lee Bakery and Parker Pen. One special tour was to Lake Geneva for a boat tour and a chance to shop some of their unique shops. These tours were discontinued when membership could no longer fill a bus to pay the fees.

In the 1980s, Tony and Chris Keil took over as co-presidents. They introduced several new activities – a homemade turkey dinner in November, corned beef and cabbage dinners for St. Pat's Day and a catered picnic lunch at the rectory in summer. Several times a year we scheduled bus trips to Oneida casino, which were open to non-members. The day started with a Dunkin Donut and juice as soon as the bus started up. Free bingo on the bus followed on the way up. Our last organization change came when Evinrude Retirees joined our group. We merged well and also enjoyed the addition of a sandwich lunch to our cake and coffee. The best leadership was with Mary Margaret Marshall and Joan Gaska, who took over the last 10 years.

Christine Keil



IHM Music and the Adult Choir

"How Great Thou Art". is a hymn originally written as a poem by Swedish editor Carl Boberg in 1885. Boberg penned the now well-sung piece when a rapid and wild thunderstorm stirred an intense level of emotion in him, leaving the Poet to run for cover. In a moment, Boberg's trembling turned to awe when the storm cleared and revealed the calm and idyllic beauty of the countryside around him with church bells ringing in the distance. All of those experiences combined revealed the mighty power of God's artwork to Boberg and compelled him to share as such through his writing.

Music is that thunderstorm and gorgeous countryside. It's the natural wavering of emotions experienced within and the instruments (like the church bells) willed by God for people to use and create. Since its inception, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (IHM) of West Allis, WI brought God's artwork to life through the organ and piano, parishioner-sung hymns and responses, wind and brass instruments, percussion, cantor groups – both young and not-so-young - and the IHM Adult Choir.

Guided by various liturgical directors, choir directors, and accompanists through the years, the IHM Adult Choir, in concert with our fellow parishioners, revealed God's Word through songs and singing – and this group definitely SINGS! Their harmonies and emotive presentation of each text reached in and stirred the souls of people who were hurting; longing for deeper connections with Jesus; or starting out on a new phase of their Catholic journey. They brought calm and reflections on the beauty of God's grace through preludes, Psalms and communion meditation pieces. And they created community through the familiar hymns and instrumentals shared at every mass.

We are grateful to God for revealing the mighty power of His artwork to all of us through the IHM Adult Choir. We sang through many storms along the way which were – and are – always followed by God's idyllic beauty of His love for us. Our community is forever blessed as we remember, and continue to lean on, the familiar songs that inspire, connect, challenge and grow us into the people God means for us to become.

"Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, how great Thou art! How great Thou art!"

Sharon Hudry

Our Sister Parish, IHM Ganta, Liberia, West Africa

Pat Fischer went to visit her niece who was working as a mission nurse in Monrovia, Liberia in 1979. Little did she know it would start relationships that would span decades. While traveling in Liberia, Pat fell in love with the Ganta Leprosy Center and Rehab. She would return to visit many times in the years to follow, staying for a month or two. She would bring any requested supplies when she came e.g. microscopes, empty film canisters, etc. Pat would help in any way that she could while there. She would bandage wounds, organize the craft sales, teach English.... When she was ready to head home, she would fill her suitcases with baskets and carvings. These were sold at parish craft fairs, and to family and friends. On her next trip, Pat would buy more items and but always leave the profits there. She did this every trip which enabled the patients to earn a living.

When her husband, Ted, retired in 1989, they headed to Ganta together to volunteer for six months. They discovered that the Catholic church down the road from Ganta was named Immaculate Heart of Mary! This started a twinning relationship between IHM West Allis and IHM Liberia. This included overseas visits from Pat, Ted, Dorothy Wutt (IHM parish nurse), niece, and granddaughter to Liberia, Africa as well as Liberian Bishop Sekey, Liberian priests, and Irish Sister Bridget visiting West Allis, USA. Fund raising included Lenten service projects which included mattresses for patients, annual spaghetti dinners, a clothing collection, donated tools, and more. The relationship lasted through civil unrest, government changes, curfews, and illness. Pat received the Archbishop's Vatican II award for *Service to the Missions* in 2003. She continued to make her almost annual trips. Pat's last trip was planned for October 2012. This was not to be as cancer claimed her life. The twinning relationship continued but slowed without the personal interactions and increased difficulty of sending funds to Africa.

This experience just shows how small the world really is and how far IHM has reached out.

Christine (Fischer) Palese



Congo Helping Hands

Today we continue our outreach to Africa through a relationship with *Congo Helping Hands* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This relationship has been embraced by MPH in the past several years. The spaghetti dinner that previously raised funds for IHM Ganta, now raises money for the *Congo Helping Hands* group represented by Parishioner and Co-Director of *CHH*, Jeff Mullins.



Editor's note: beginning Sept. 25 there will only be one mass; the two masses each had their own group of Greeters for the last several years who will continue to greet at the one mass.

IHM Ushers

When I was asked to write a short history of the Ushers, I decided to go through my dad's (Art Stueck) briefcase that he used to hold all of his Usher materials. He was the Head Usher for many years!

I do know that dad joined the ushers in 1964, shortly after we moved to the IHM Parish. He kept documents of meetings dating back to 1982 (in that briefcase!). Back then there were 5 masses, 6 teams of dedicated parishioners that showed up for every mass, and a team for funerals. There was a Constitution set up with By-laws, quarterly meetings, dinner dances, picnics and many projects that were sponsored and paid for by the ushers. In 2014 my Dad was honored for 50 years of service and in 2015 Tony Keil was honored. Many of those ushers stayed in service to the church until they retired well into their 80's.

Today we have 2 masses, with only 6 ushers (4:00pm Saturdays is ushered by Sue Pirt and Janice Gorichan), and the 9:30am Sunday mass (ushered by Bob Taticek, Randy Lenich, Michael Lenich and myself). Bob has been around for many years and Randy, Michael and myself are second generation ushers.

I would personally like to thank all those ushers that served throughout the years, too many to name, too many that have passed away. They have each showed a true dedication to IHM and its whole community.

Julie Barkow-Peck (nee Stueck)

Memories and Pictures

(in no particular order)

During the 70s we had over 30 plus active ushers at IHM. Each usher bought matching blue blazer jackets. On the front pocket we had these patches on them. We tried to buy the same ties for all, but after several tries at many stores we gave up.



We also had a good time having a family picnic at Lion's Park in New Berlin. In the fall we had a dinner with the wives at a restaurant. Good time for all.

Bob Taticek, Usher for 53 years

When the new Immaculate Heart of Mary was built, they opened the small dilapidated old church to members to make an offer on anything in there. My husband and I bought one of the old water-logged pews. It had beautiful scrolling on the ends. It was too long so my husband cut it to a size to fit our home utilizing the ends and refinishing it. It sat in our sunroom for 22 years. It was a catch-all for jackets, hats, even homework.

When we moved our daughter took it to Rhinelander and there it sat in their lower level and swimsuits, wet towels etc. were tossed on it. From there it was taken to Waukesha and used as a catch-all in their dining area. Then away it went to Milton and is now relegated to the basement and has again been put to use as a catch-all for clothes to be laundered, toys, hammers etc.

It has put on many miles and maybe it will make another move, who knows. Enjoy!

LaVerne Hughes

Here are my thoughts about my experiences with the community of IHM:

When I reflect on my time at IHM, my mind is flooded with memories of so many people. Fr. Dierbeck, a wise and kind leader. Bruno and Marie Gouadagni faithfully going to Mass every morning. Tom and Joyce Jakubowski and Dick Koerber, who gave witness to the vitality of the Spirit to those preparing for Confirmation. Jim and Sandi Engel and Ron and Mary Ellen Gallun, who helped mentor the youth group in so many ways. Jack Dunlap who taught so many of us how to die with faith. (O Bless the Lord My Soul!)

Of course, my mind is still captivated by all those who were part of the youth group. Too many to name in this short reflection, but they know who they are. The surprisingly unpredictable campouts. The struggles and triumphs of *Godspell* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. The joy and intensity of the searches.

When I left IHM, the youth group gave me a ring with symbols of Baptism on it. Inside it was engraved with Eph. 3:17-21. (Look it up) and "Thanks your kids!" When I was studying in Boston, I lived at Sacred Heart Parish. After morning Mass one day a woman saw my ring and said: "I thought priests can't get married." I replied without hesitation, my wife didn't give me this ring, my kids did. When I think of IHM - I think of family, the communion of saints. I think of church.

Fr. Art Heinze



*We are grateful for
these two wonderful
pastors.
Ralph & Rosemary Schwalbach*



Ralph & Rosemary Schwalbach have been IHM members since 1960.

The picture with Fr. Karl was taken at their 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass in September, 2009.

The picture with Fr. Jeff is from their 60th Wedding Anniversary Mass in September, 2019.

HEARTBEAT EDITOR NOTE:

They still come to Mass each week, meticulously dressed and holding hands, looking young, joyous, and in love with a spring in their steps!



Father Raymond Welter, IHM's first Pastor, approached me to be the bookkeeper for the parish. I was a high school senior at the time, but I agreed to give it a try. When the issue of wages came up, we agreed to working Saturday mornings for a cruller and a cup of coffee.

So, for the next few years after morning Saturday Mass, I would go to the rectory (old house) sit at the kitchen table and as agreed, Father Welter ALWAYS had the cruller in place and the coffee ready. Father Welter made the work enjoyable.

Marianne Thompson

La Cross Family Memories (Daughter and Dad)

I grew up with Immaculate Heart, fortunate to attend the grade school during the 2nd Vatican Council. The changes it brought were exciting: switching from Latin to English Mass with new music; Fr. Dierbeck showing us *The Harvest of Shame* on farmworkers' plight in religion class, the parish coming alive in many new ministries on the altar, a first Parish Council, new outreach in the world. I loved the years our Holy Week and Easter Vigil were celebrated with Greenfield Park Lutheran.

The CYO was revived when Fr. Art Heinze joined us. He also served as my theology mentor - memorably one summer leading a few of us in a study of the new liberation theology - preparing me for further study and ministry. It was a privilege and a joy to join the pastoral team as youth minister. Looking back I see how Sister Carol, Fr. Dierbeck, and other members of the community I loved gave space and support for those of us feeling called to serve in some way; I know I challenged their comfort zones.

I must say that my absolute most favorite memory surprises me still: that there Jim Penczykowski and I met, in that beloved community we fell in love, and are now gratefully in our 40th year of marriage.

Patti La Cross

When we first came to Immaculate Heart, we were still worshipping in the old building later used by the Boy Scouts; it was small but had varnished pews and was clearly church space. I have many good memories of the 20 years we belonged, and later we often returned for events. The May Crowning and other festivities, the Christian Mothers and Holy Name Society all made it feel like we lived in a small village where we all knew one another, and you could always talk to anyone including the priests easily.

Fr. Dierbeck's 25th Anniversary was a big party- his father even came. Carl (Lucky) Lukowiak asked me to help mix drinks. There was so much booze I asked him if I needed a canoe paddle. After we cleaned up, Ken Lichtermann asked me to grab a case of beer. He took one and we carried them to the convent. It was late when he rang the bell, but one of the sisters unlocked the door, so we slid them in. The next time I saw Sister Elva she put her hand on my shoulder and said "Bless you, son!" She always had a smile.

After one early mass I had been the Acolyte for, Fr. Jim Hammon told me they were going to start having cantors, and he wanted me to be one. I asked him "who is going to give me the tune?" Sr. Elva was nearby, and she started mooing. She must have heard me sing. That ended that.

I was on the Parish Council early on. Russ Stone and I were sitting near when Fr. Dierbeck came in, looking tired and down. He made a comment that maybe he hadn't accomplished anything. I told him to pull the blind up on the window behind him and said "You see that new rectory? You did that!" He was feeling fine at our annual meeting at the Red Lion, he had a Whoopie cushion that kept going around the room, and he just kept laughing. I have so many memories, and had so many friends there. Lucky and I both worked for the Telephone Company. We got the poles and raised them for the big IHM sign near Greenfield Ave. So many good people.

Carroll (CJ) La Cross

In August of 1960, Phil and I joined IHM parish. Then in September, one of the church organizations sponsored a church dance. Phil said "Let's go!". So, not knowing anyone at the parish, we went to the dance. As we walked into the hall, a couple came up to us and said, "Are you new here? Come and sit with us!" We joined them and their friends at the table. We felt so welcomed! What a wonderful impression of the community!

After that, Phil became very active in the parish, coaching sports to the young people, teaching religious education, and singing in the choir until he became very ill. We made many lifetime friendships here. We feel so blessed to have been a part of IHM. Thanks to you all who made us feel so welcomed in this wonderful community!

Ruth Ann Melk



Memories of IHM date back to 1966. I believe we felt family from the beginning. So many good priests and members to share everything from baptism, wedding and special events. Such togetherness shared. It would take a book to write all this love.

The Shakula Family

Ralph Robers was the Director of Religious Education from 1975 to 1988. He brought a unity and commitment to children among the volunteer teachers in the program. Ralph was hired by Fr. Dierbeck and discovered that the IHM faith community was inviting and life giving. He has fond memories of the special Thanksgiving liturgies when parish families brought homemade bread and wine to be blessed and then exchanged with a different family to be shared at their Thanksgiving meal. He remembers the wonderful cooperative spirit among the Catholic school parents and the public school parents in the First Communion program. The pastoral staff along with the volunteer teachers during his years as Director reflected the best of IHM. Although all the teachers brought a special talent and energy to the religious education program, Ralph recalls a special memory of one person in particular, Phil Melk. Ralph said, "Phil, who taught the high schoolers, was a most giving, caring person. He was not pretentious. What you saw was what you got. He reflected the spirit of IHM as real, fully human as he tried to bring joy and love into people's lives."

Parishioner Memory:

One Thanksgiving the sisters had invited the priests over for Thanksgiving dinner, but we all forgot to take the turkey out of the freezer until evening the night before. So, Sr. Elva and I (Sr. Rosemary) took turns getting up during the night to run water over the turkey so it would thaw. It worked and a good dinner was had by all, even those who were a bit sleepy.

Rosemary Bonk, SSND

Former Teacher at IHM School,

Former Adult Ministry Director IHM



And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matt 16:18

We are taught that a church is not a building, however this building is more than bricks and mortar. It is where I was shaped into the faith filled person I am today and formed bonds with people that cannot be broken. Whenever I walk back into this sanctuary I always have an overwhelming sense of peace come over me--a sense of God's presence and of coming home.

I was asked to come up with a memory from my time as a member that is/was known as IHM Parish. I have a lifetime of memories so it is hard to choose just one. I remember the grade school yellow book bags (pre backpack), Sr. Mary Mark SSND playing kickball in full habit of the 1960s, Bruno G. flying newspaper kites at recess (he lived across the street from church with his wife Marie), plus many more flashbacks from grade school.

I have a fond memory of the monthly Sunday afternoon movies in the 1960s sponsored by the Boy Scouts. The movies were shown in the current church hall for the value price of a quarter. For that price, you could see cartoons and a movie. We had the opportunity to sit cross-legged on the cold cement floor (we were kids; we didn't care). Popcorn was sold for a dime, candy bars were a nickel, and White Rock soda was sold for a quarter. These were bargain prices for parents to get the kids out of the house for a couple of hours each month! Most of the time the projector would work, but when the film broke, it was utter chaos for grade school kids pumped up on candy bars and soda. Fun times for all!

I also have so many wonderful memories from being a member of the 1970's CYO group. I am so grateful for the leadership of Fr Art Heinze and Mike Woyach of the pastoral team at that time, volunteers Jim and Sandi Engel, Ron and Mary Ellen Gallun, and many others for all of the countless volunteer hours and vacation time these people gave up, all while raising their young families.

Closing a chapter of one's life is never easy. I pray for many new memories and new faith experiences for God's people with the new community of Mother of Perpetual Help. God's blessings and peace to all!

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Rev 21: 1,3

Ann (Chaney) Tunak





“I Hand Unto You What I Myself Have Received...”

This quote from Saint Matthew’s gospel and the theme of the Fiddler on The Roof cast t-shirts, encapsulates what IHM’s CYO/youth ministry was all about. The “Good News” that the people of IHM sought to hand on was a sense of membership in a Christian community and its ability to move us closer to God’s kingdom.

In 1971 a young priest, Fr. Art Heinze, arrived at IHM with a vision of just such a community and a lot of energy. He took up the challenge of helping the young people discover God’s presence and plan in the everyday stuff of their lives.

So from its humble beginnings with just a handful of parish young people meeting at Zulli’s for pizza or camping for the weekend at Terry Andrae State Park, this group of “kids” gathered from a multitude of high schools and the neighborhood surrounding the parish, blossomed into a dynamic group of over one hundred and fifty.

We developed our ideas of faith and church through CCD classes, searches (aka weekend retreats) and experiences of community in all our activities.

We played together during endless softball games, at dances, on weeklong summer campouts and in haunted houses.

We prayed together at masses around a campfire, at Confirmation, on searches and on stage before play practices.

We served together at car washes, at the parish festival, at paper drives and trips to mentor the 9th Street School Head Start students.

We shared the “Good News” of the parables of Matthew’s gospel in Godspell and the “traditions” and strong sense of a community of believers from Fiddler on the Roof by presenting the plays to the IHM community.

Through all of this the young people of IHM and the many adult advisors and teachers who were privileged to work with them built a bond of sister and brotherhood, a sense of Christian community, that has survived no matter where we are for over 50 years. We continue to share in each other’s joys celebrating the births, weddings and reunions, to support each other in times of need, and to console each other in times of grief. We serve through our everyday roles in life, in choirs, on councils, through volunteer work and human concerns committees.

Most importantly, we have taken the “good news” rooted in our experiences in the IHM CYO and “we hand on what we ourselves have received” to our families, our friends and all those whose lives we touch. IHM CYO will always live in our hearts.

Sandi Engel

Memories of IHM

My father's funeral
Beautiful Christmas Services
Fr. Art Heinz bringing me home from a Girl Scout weekend
My parents 50th Wedding Anniversary
Dr. Debra Fixel at Trinity College, Ct.
My children's baptisms here and went to school here
Food pantry
Fish Fries
Wonderful Festivals
Hospitality Sundays
Spaghetti Dinners
Christmas Tree loaded with gifts to be given to others
Dedicated Priests:
Fr. Art Heinze, Fr. Robert Surges, Fr. Joe Aufdermauer, Fr. Karl Schneider (17 years)
Cookie Sales
Pat Fischer and her trips to Ganta, Liberia
I've been in churches around the U.S. from California to Florida , S.O. Kentucky, Washington, D.C. and never met better folks than here.
Virginia Fixel, parishioner 54 years

The HeartBeat Memories

I heard the first HeartBeat began with Edna Hall. In the 70's, Joe Apollo and Nancy Schafer were part of the staff. The publication stopped for a bit and was restarted in 1984 under Al Mozina and staff when Fr. Bob Surges was pastor. Artwork in the issues was done by Darlene Hegelst that time. When and why the publication stopped, I don't know, but while Fr. Karl Schneider was pastor, he asked for someone to help with a new HeartBeat. I thought I could help using my computer and joined a small group headed by Jean Stackpole. We assembled and published the HeartBeat 4 times a year. After Jean left the parish, Julie Mushall, Lee DeLeeuw, Grace Willems and I formed the staff. later Grace left and Judi Doren joined us. During that time we used the Liturgical artwork of one of our parishioners, Virginia Broderick. After 19 years and increased lack of interest, the HeartBeat was "put to bed" once again.

Joan Gaska



Memories of a Deacon

My family [Donna and 6 children] joined Immaculate Heart of Mary [IHM] in December 1971 after we moved to our new Brookfield home during Thanksgiving week of 1971. Mass on Sunday was a weekly event, our children were 6 months to 7 years old that December.

After several months I heard about the 8th grade CCD classes lead by Fr. Art Heinze starting in September with six parishioners including Dennis Fietz, so I joined that group as my 1st volunteer service to the IHM community. Donna delivered our 7th child during September, 1972 just as CCD classes started.

I had lots of opportunity to be involved with IHM including the Kazoo Band led by Tom Jakubowski, Brewer baseball games, the CFM group, and a few liturgy groups. Donna and I also joined a few social groups who were fun to be with. Holy Week, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations with family and many friends were special occasions for our family.

In the Spring of 1975, I discovered the Diaconate while attending Mass at St Ben's church on 8th and State St. I spoke with Jack Champagne about his involvement and Preparation for Ordination in December 1975. After discussing my findings with Donna, we both thought I should apply for Diaconate training.

I went through several meetings with the Seminary staff and Diaconate leadership personnel and was accepted to start classes in January of 1976. I discovered that Dennis Fietz was also involved when we both showed up for that 1st class. Classes were every Saturday, almost all year with many weekly evening events. Donna attended all the classes baking snacks for everyone. We were busy. As we were concluding our studies after almost 2.5 years, our ordination date was set for June 11, 1978.

All 19 candidates were excited and ready to begin our new Ministry. Ordination occurred at our Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist during 10am Mass with a full church of Catholics there to show and give us their support. Fr. Leroy Dierbeck was our IHM Pastor at the time.

Our family enjoyed being members of IHM parish and our involvement with many parish families. Life was joyful.

My main Ministries were CCD teaching, Marriage Preparation Ministry, miscellaneous Deacon Ministries and assisting the Priest during Mass. Four Deacons from our Diaconate class are still alive, and we interact several times a year enjoying life. 49 years have passed since those beginning DIACONATE days and I'm still active as a deacon, moving slower now, but still active in many life events.

Blessings and Love to all, Deacon Walt Henry

My Memories of IHM

I have spent my whole life at this parish, my first communion, my confirmation, my sister and sister-in-law's weddings, my children's baptisms, my father's funeral. I remember my whole family getting dressed up and going to church in the 1960's and hearing the Mass in Latin. After my mother got sick, priests would come to our house from the parish to visit her and give her communion.

In the 1970's, I was involved in the CYO mentored by Fr. Art, where I experienced a strong sense of community and grew in my faith. Many of the friends I made in those years are still friends some 45 years later.

My wife Dawn and I were married in 1981 and my involvement with the parish continued: choir, parish council, Christian formation teacher, kazoo band member, the appreciation dinner, the spaghetti dinner, and countless festivals. Our two children had the opportunity to be a part of a vibrant faith community that put their faith into action in many ways. One moment that stands out is when Karen and Joel Schlais lost both of their daughters to a terrible disease and were overwhelmed with grief. They had mounting medical bills and IHM along with Elizabeth Ann Seton held a fund raiser attended by over 300 people that raised over \$10,000.

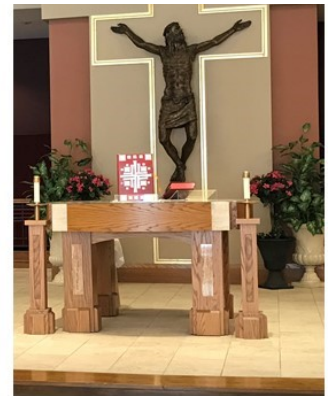
I will be forever grateful for all the friends, prayers, and experiences I've had at the parish I will always call home!

Jon Leonardelli



HEARTBEAT

***Thanks for the Memories!
Thank you to ALL who have
contributed to this parish over
the years and to all
who will contribute to the future
of Mother of Perpetual Help***



*With Love,
Joan Gaska, Jon & Dawn Leonardelli, Nancy Dlouhy and Kathy Smith
(and with apologies for any and all mistakes we missed!)*