

*Celebrating Our
IHM Legacy
of Grace • 175 Years*



September 19, 1845

Sister Theresa Maxis Duchemin arrives with Sister Ann Schaaf in Monroe, Michigan, where Father Gillet awaits her arrival with Miss Therese Renauld.



November 10, 1845

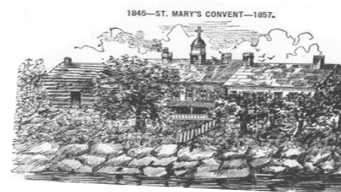
Founding of the Congregation of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Monroe, Michigan (as Sisters of Providence). The log cabin was the home of the first Sisters.

November 30, 1845

Mother Theresa Maxis and Sister Ann Shaaf receive the habit and profess their vows. On December 14, the first IHM sisters renew their vows. Therese Renauld receives the habit and is named Sister M. Celestine and becomes the first IHM novice. In the spring of 1846, five months after its foundation, a fourth member, Josette Godfroy-Smyth, was received with the name, Sister Mary Alphonsine.

January 1846

The first students are welcomed to classes with the Sisters at St. Mary's



October 6, 1847

Father Gillet leaves Monroe. His ties with the Congregation are severed for many years.

December 8, 1847

The title of the Congregation is changed from Sisters of Providence to Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; the scapular is changed from black to blue material.



December 8, 1854

Dogma of the Immaculate Conception is proclaimed. The Congregation has been under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception from its foundation.

August 23, 1858

First mission in Pennsylvania opens at St. Joseph's in Susquehanna County. Bishop John Neumann gives the sisters a three-day retreat prior to the opening of school.

April 4, 1859

Mother Theresa leaves Monroe for St. Joseph's in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. On July 24, 1859, First Reception and Profession Ceremony are held at St. Joseph Novitiate. Bishop John Neumann presides; seven new members are received.



August 3, 1859

The first IHM mission in the Philadelphia diocese is opened at St. Peter's in Reading, Pennsylvania.

May 1, 1861

Charter is approved for St. Joseph Academy in Susquehanna County, the first school staffed by IHMs in Pennsylvania. The parish was staffed by Redemptorists.

Annual Retreat 1864

Bishop Wood transfers the novices at St. Joseph, Susquehanna, to Reading, Pennsylvania, which then became the new motherhouse for all the Pennsylvania missions.

February 2, 1867

Mother Theresa Maxis and Sister Celestine Renauld leave Susquehanna County for Ottawa, Canada. Mother begins her exile with the Grey Nuns. She always considered herself to be a member of the IHM Congregation.



September 8, 1872

Mother M. Gonzaga transfers the motherhouse, novitiate, and academy from Reading to West Chester, Pennsylvania.

January 21, 1885

Mother Theresa Maxis returns to IHM Congregation in West Chester, Pennsylvania. She is reunited with the IHM congregation and her exile ends.

February 8, 1891



Father Gillet (Père Marie Célestin) is reacquainted with the IHM Congregation. Connection is reestablished through the efforts of Sister Clotilde. He is able to provide facts about the Congregation's founding.

January 14, 1892

Mother Theresa Maxis dies at Villa Maria, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

November 14, 1892

Father Gillet (Père Marie Célestin) dies at the Royal Abbey of Notre Dame of Hautecombe.



November 6, 1908

Ground is broken for Villa Maria Academy, Frazer, Pennsylvania. This becomes Villa Maria (later Immaculata) College in 1920.

August 1913

Villa Maria by the Sea, Cape May Point, New Jersey, is established under Mother Mary James Sweeney as a summer retreat house for the Sisters.

October 9-30, 1918

About 400 Sisters of IHM serve in the general and emergency hospitals and nurse the sick in private homes during the influenza pandemic. Nine Sisters died giving services at this time.



November 12, 1920

Immaculata College obtains its charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

December 12, 1922

First Immaculata IHM Sisters arrive in Peru marking the beginning of IHM service outside of the United States.



February 2, 1937

Ground is broken for a new retreat house at Stone Harbor, New Jersey, under the leadership of Mother M. Kostka McCormick.

January 1940

The Sisters open Villa Maria Academy, in Santiago, Chile.



November 10, 1945

Sisters celebrate the Centenary of IHM founding in Monroe, Michigan. The Centennial Hymn composed by Sister M. Judith and Sister Clement Marie of Monroe, was adopted as the official Community Hymn.



August 1950



St. Aloysius Academy is transferred from West Chester to the Wooton Estate in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

December 17, 1955

Constitutions of the Immaculata IHM Congregation receive the Decree of Praise, making it a Pontifical Congregation.



May 31, 1960

Blessing of the cornerstone of Camilla Hall Nursing Home.
August 2, 1965
Mother Theresa's remains are transferred from St. Agnes Cemetery to Immaculata Cemetery.



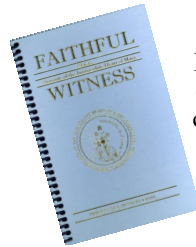
September 7, 1966

Final move from Motherhouse in West Chester to Villa Maria, Immaculata, is accomplished.

April 23, 1967

Dedication of the new Motherhouse, Villa Maria House of Studies.

July 1969-January 1970



Extraordinary Chapter of Affairs is convoked --dealing with necessary changes and adaptation of religious life of the Sisters providing for greater personal responsibility.

August 1989

The Congregation opens 2 IHM Literacy Centers in Philadelphia followed by IHM Family Literacy Center (Coatesville) in 2002.

November 10, 1995

IHM Sesquicentennial: three IHM Congregations celebrate 150th anniversary of their foundation. New Sesquicentennial Hymn of Praise is composed by Immaculata IHMs (Sisters Patricia Dailey, Regina Foy, Marjorie McCall, and Vera Rocks).



August 1, 2002

Immaculata College celebrates its status as Immaculata University.

August 2001

The Congregation establishes the Office of Mission Advancement to coordinate financial support of the IHM Ministries.

October 27, 2002

The Sisters of IHM are awarded the prestigious St. Agnes Cross "for courageous moral leadership" by St. Agnes Parish, West Chester, Pennsylvania.



September 13, 2012

Groundbreaking occurs for construction of the new wing at Camilla Hall. Project continues to completion with Solemn Vespers and Dedication with Archbishop Chaput on May 29, 2015.



January 6, 2013

The Pope Paul VI Award for Catechetical Leadership is awarded to the IHM Immaculata Congregation for significant contributions to the field of catechesis on archdiocesan, national, and international levels at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.



October 2016

Strategic Planning Model is presented to the Congregation at the Fall Regional Meetings. Personnel, Ministry, and Temporal Affairs were identified as key organizing categories of the plan. In November, Stone Harbor is selected as the first of the congregation properties to begin the strategic planning process.



August 2017

The Office of Sponsorship is created to ensure that the sponsored ministries of the IHM Congregation continue into the future as IHM entities and put into place governance structures that will ensure that these will flourish.

September 2017

Announcement of the successful Mission Advancement Campaign for Camilla Hall resulting in \$2.6 million in pledges.

July 2018

Sister Mary Ellen Tenny convokes the delegates to open the 2018 Chapter of Affairs.



September 24, 2018

Sisters Rita James Murphy, Anne McGuire, and Margaret Patrice Reinking meet to begin their work in the Office of Mission Effectiveness.



November 16, 2019

The Congregation shares the designs with the Sisters for the new Villa by the Sea planned for construction during 2020.

November 2019

The Congregation announces the events planned for the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the IHM Congregation.

