



The Heartbeat

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HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY, IHM SCHOOL!

by Deb Moore, Parish Historian

On June 8, 32 eighth graders will matriculate from Immaculate Heart of Mary School and join the ranks of "IHM School Alumni," a group now 3,031 members strong.

Just two-and-a-half years after the parish began, IHM School opened in the fall of 1952. The new red brick building held four classrooms, an office, a nurse's room, janitor's closet and lavatories (today's "east wing"). It was meant to accommodate 176 students, or 44 pupils per room. Founding pastor Fr. Charles Killgoar, O.M.I. contracted with the Dominican Sisters to teach, and they moved into the new convent attached to the school. Sr. Samuel, O.P. was one of the five, and taught the split 6th, 7th and 8th grade class in addition to performing her duties as principal.



Pat Bohn, later Jennings, as an 8th grader at IHM

Pat Bohn Jennings, parishioner since 1956, and IHM '57, remembers beginning IHM School as a 7th grader that year. "I started mid-year," said Pat, "and Sr. Samuel introduced me to the class. She was barely five foot tall, and 12-year-old me towered over her at 5'9"," she chuckled.

The parish grew quickly as young families were attracted to the new houses in the area. The south wing was completed in October 1954, adding four additional classrooms, and the west wing opened in 1957, adding another six classrooms. Lay teachers were added to the religious staff. Enrollment continued a steady rise until it reached an all-time peak of 535 pupils in 1964. Kindergarten was added in 1976. Two "portable" classrooms were used in the 1980s-1992. The north wing—office, library, three classrooms, and teacher's lounge—was part of a major renovation completed in 1992.



Mike Jennings in 8th grade

Mike Jennings, IHM '54, has the distinction of being the oldest IHM School alumni still an IHM parishioner. Indeed, he and his family were swept into IHM parish in 1949 as charter members, as their home on Blaine Street by Elliott Street fell within the new parish boundaries. Mike began 7th grade at IHM School when the doors opened in the fall of 1952 and was in its second graduating class. Mike was also an altar boy. He remembered walking up Burton Street to church to serve Mass one Saturday. "When I got to the apple orchard" (where Rosewood comes into Burton today), said Mike, "I chose to save a few steps by taking a diagonal route through the orchard. My foot broke through some thin ice and I was wet and muddy up to my calves. Fr. [Ed] Randall took one look at me and hosed off my legs in the church basement. He said to me, 'A shortcut isn't always the best way, Mike.' I've always remembered that sentiment."

Now, near the close of its 70th year of providing a stellar education for thousands of students, IHM parishioners can be rightfully proud of their parish school. Its graduates are well prepared for their high school studies and most go on to higher education and from there enter a myriad of professions and careers. It is high praise for IHM School when its alumni become parents and send their own children to their alma mater. But it's even higher praise when those same alumni live out the school credo: "Disciples first, then diplomas."



by Sue Jakubowski

As Father Troy announced at the Fall Gathering and in the parish bulletin, IHM is in the process of building a new rectory. Bishop Walkowiak has requested all parishes have a rectory on site and St. Paul's and St. Robert's have already done so. Although Fr. Troy currently lives close by in the neighborhood, there is a tradition of priests living on the campus for ease of accessibility. Given the unique demands of a pastor's lifestyle and his involvement with most parish activities, it is hoped this move will benefit both the parish and the pastor. Important as these priorities are, they do not override the basic everyday need for privacy and some semblance of space from work.

The new rectory will be built on parish land which connects with Johnston St., an area that is currently part of the athletic fields. It is just a short distance away from the church itself, and the aim is for the project to fit the long-term needs of the parish as a whole. Key to planning the exact location of the rectory on the parish campus, as well as determining its size and amenities, were thoughts of the future.

The new construction will feature a three-suite, handicapped accessible home as depicted in the pictures below. On the main floor, there will be separate bedroom and bath areas which connect with a shared kitchen, dining and living room area. One unique feature of the new space will be the installation of the original stained glass windows from the first rectory built by Fr. Killgoar. That original rectory was subsequently used as a convent and later, our preschool building, and restoring the windows will be a nod to parish history and its future legacy.

We are grateful to parishioner and fifteen-year member of the Finance Council, Tom McGovern of Rockford Construction, who is working on bringing the project to completion. His work is coupled with that of former parishioner John Van Houten of Progressive AE who crafted the architectural drawings and remains very involved. In building the rectory, one of the goals is to use the talents and expertise of as many parishioners or diocesan connections as possible.

Funding for the new home will come from three primary sources. First, anonymous private donors have expressed a desire to contribute to this effort. Additionally, the current rectory will be sold, and those proceeds will go towards the new rectory. Luckily, in the current real estate market, this sale is expected to return a substantial profit on the initial investment. Finally, any overage from the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) and parish savings will cover the balance of the cost.

As of this writing in mid-April, the State of Michigan and the City of Grand Rapids have given their approval for the project. Building will begin as soon as the City issues the necessary building permits. Tom McGovern estimates a six-month construction schedule despite supply chain issues and complications due to pandemic related demand for trade work. Fr. Troy is optimistic the new rectory will be available when he returns from his sabbatical in the Holy Land next fall.



Gardening Ministry

by Jane Eggleston, Stewardship & Communications Coordinator



As the earth wakes up with a rush of color and verdant life each springtime, IHM's Gardening Ministry is called back into action. With gloves, rakes and pruning shears they get to work in the many different gardening zones of our very large campus, including the school and parish. With the help of **Brett and Sherry Boonenberg's** company, Thornapple River Nursery, the Athletic Association, and our maintenance crew, the property is kept neat and tidy. In addition, many volunteers have adopted an area as their own to manage throughout the seasons. Parishioner **Jon Rauch** coordinates all the volunteers and monitors their work.



Over the last few years, many new plantings have been added to replace dying or overgrown landscaping. Large Weeping Pine trees have been added by the side gym doors, shrubbery along the west side of the parking lot, rhododendrons in the courtyard, and rose bushes in the front of church. In addition, memorial trees have been donated by families to honor their loved ones. All in all, our campus has really bloomed.



We have a variety of volunteers with special gifts. **Cheri Seamon** has been planting the flower pots and begonias that line the walkway into church for almost forty years. She diligently waters and weeds throughout the summer to make a colorful, flower-filled entrance into church. Good friends **MaryAnn Vicini** and **Barb Waier** enjoy spending time together while keeping the courtyard beds free of weeds. **Ray Sheahan** diligently works the Hearts and Hands garden entrance and along the west side of the church. **Kim Eadie** not only works his magic on the inside of the church, decorating our sanctuary with his wife **Linda**, but also spends time working in the beds surrounding the outside. **Joanne Heidenreich, Jack Habari, Dan Heintz, Gary Vachon** and **Neal Riley**, all spend quality time managing their various zones around the school building. These wonderful volunteers have a gift they want to share with their parish and community.

If you have a love of working with gardens and enjoy the outside, please consider joining this wonderful community of volunteers. Beautifying a garden is like a prayer to God and all His creation. We are thankful for the space we are given here on the corner of Plymouth and Burton. Ours is a high traffic area with many non-parishioners viewing our property daily. They are also blessed by our beautiful, lovingly-cared-for campus. Our Gardening Ministry not only tends IHM's grounds, but they are also witnessing to us, their fellow parishioners and beyond, their love for Christ and nature. We are truly blessed!

THE “COURTYARD” STATIONS OF THE CROSS

by Deb Moore

For Advent last year, two parishioners took on a project as a birthday present to Jesus, that of tending to the Stations of the Cross in our church courtyard.

During that cold month of December, Jim and Katie Hudson removed the plexiglass covers to dust and clean out grime, spiders and cobwebs. They gave each of the 14 stations a fresh coat of paint/stain on the posts and housing. A few cracked plexiglass covers were replaced. Three stations were especially sun bleached from western exposure and taken to a professional restorer for new paint.

Purchased for our original church around 1959, these Italian carved wooden representations of the events on Jesus's way to Golgotha were never meant to face rain and harsh Michigan winters. However, because they have been protected in enclosed cases, and through the loving hands of the couple, they are holding up well and look beautiful.

“Renewing the Stations was a great opportunity to dwell on each moment expressed, consider the characters portrayed and how their behavior affected Jesus or how Jesus's suffering affected them. I imagined where I might be in each situation and that's when I'd come to grips with my own weaknesses and lack of courage. Our Stations at IHM are a quiet place for prayer and reflection, any time of year, day or in the evening. We're so fortunate to have them in the garden,” said Katie..

The Hudsons find these books helpful versions to pray the Stations of the Cross:

Stations of the Cross, I Am There by Norman Haskell,
from St. Anthony Messenger

The Way of the Cross with St. John Paul II by Father
Herbert Niba, from Our Sunday Visitor

The Stations of the Cross In My Pocket, from Paulist Press
(for children)



Jim Hudson stands by one of the newly painted Station of the Cross



Weaving Theology of the Body into the Fabric of Family Life

by Karen Weber

Over 50 parents gathered on Thursday, March 10, 2022, for a panel discussion on practical ways to live Theology of the Body (TOB) principles at home. Guest panelists were Ruth and Chris Leikert from The Parish of the Holy Spirit, along with Kendall and Sean Nolan from Sacred Heart Parish. Both families have five children and shared examples of manageable tips they use to draw the uniqueness out of each child. By celebrating each member of the family, modeling respectful language, and showing gratitude for the gift of the other, they strengthen communication, trust and love.

Immaculate Heart of Mary families have been hearing about St. John Paul II's teaching on TOB since 2018. IHM's Long Range plan includes TOB goals for the Mission Effectiveness committee. Parent handbooks are distributed to all school families. The handbook connects parents with concepts the children are learning in school and ideas for how to reinforce them at home. Nearly half of attendees filled out evaluations with 100% of respondents saying they found the evening very educational and 100% saying they would attend another TOB Parent event.



The March Theology of the Body event was well attended.

"Man ... cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself."

—Gaudium et Spes, 24



HANDBELL CHOIR SEEKS ONE MORE RINGER

Have you been wondering about a way you can participate in the life of our parish? Do you enjoy listening to the Handbell Choir? Can you read music? Are you ready to become part of a group enhancing the liturgy and praising God?

The Handbell Choir needs one more member. Practices are Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm most weeks, September through May. We play for one Mass on all major holy days and in between, too.

If you would like to become a member of our ensemble, call Liz Owen, Music Minister, at 616-241-4477, ext. 116.

LIFE & DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON IN "I HAVE A DREAM"

by Brendan Izworski



IHM's 8th grade English class recently studied Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. In conjunction with Catholic Social Teaching projects for history, the pupils studied the speech in a more in-depth way, and wrote short commentaries relating Dr. King's speech to the different themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

"I Have a Dream," by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was one of the most important speeches in American history. It called for economic rights and an end to racism. Catholic Social Teaching is a doctrine concerning the common good in society and matters of human dignity. It offers us a way of seeing the world.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person, one of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching, is an important part of the "I Have a Dream" speech. Dr. King believed that it was time for change. "Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood." He said that people should rise up, leave racism behind, and hold hands together no matter whose hands they were. Life and Dignity of the Human Person states that everyone deserves respect no matter who they are or what they look like.

"The Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny, and they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone." Here, Dr. King said that the black and white communities needed trust because destiny and freedom are impossible to separate. He wanted to show how similar people really were; the only difference was their skin color.

"Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice." Dr. King wanted to bring black people out of segregation and into equality, to leave behind the dark times of segregation, and come to the path of freedom. He wanted to show how harmful it is when everyone is separate, and how all people should rise up and join together no matter what they look like. Life and Dignity of the Human Person teaches us to come together and have respect for each other, instead of being separate.

Dr. King's dream was that the United States would honor its belief in equality. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed—we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." Everyone should live in the unity to which God calls us. Dr. King also stated the obvious: all men are created equal, and nobody should be treated differently. Everyone should come together and be treated equally.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person has a strong role throughout the "I Have a Dream" speech. Dr. King summarizes its importance when he says, "When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Have You Wondered **WHAT IS THE KILLGOAR FOUNDATION?**

by Mark & Maureen Norton

The Killgoar Foundation exists to support Catholic education at IHM school. The Killgoar Foundation was established in 1987 and was named for the founding pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Father Charles Killgoar. It is the goal of the Foundation to ensure quality Catholic education is available to all parish children. By providing direct tuition assistance and helping teachers continue their professional development, the Foundation helps keep tuition costs affordable for all families.

The future of Catholic education in the United States rests heavily on endowment funding. The Killgoar Foundation has provided IHM School with more than \$2.8 million since 1999. In the 2021 school year, 78 students, more than 25% of the students attending IHM, have received tuition assistance from the foundation. This year the foundation fund donated \$225,000 to IHM school. The recipients of tuition assistance sign a contract and are expected to be a member of the parish, tithe, go to church regularly, and be active members including involvement in a church ministry. The Foundation is completely autonomous from the diocese and parish, it operates as a separate nonprofit organization.

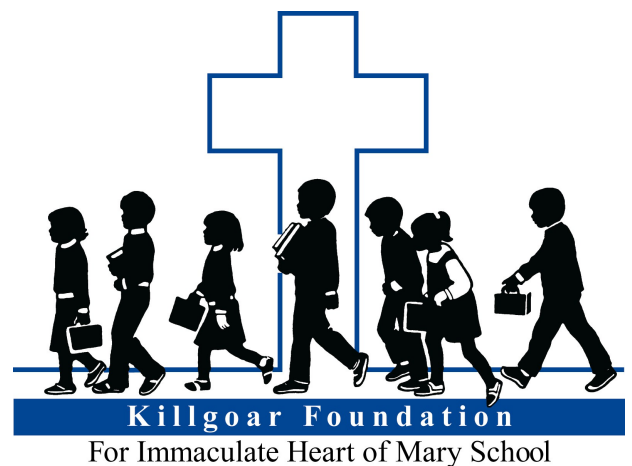
Take a minute and look at the Killgoar Foundation website (ihmparish.com, then click on Killgoar Foundation in the upper right-hand corner) and consider giving a single gift or weekly gifts automatically through electronic fund transfer (EFT). Any and every gift will make a difference in IHM's ability to serve future students.

WAYS TO GIVE TO THE KILLGOAR FOUNDATION:

- BLUE KILLGOAR ENVELOPES IN THE OFFERTORY BASKET AT MASS
- ANNUAL GIFTS
- DONATE STOCKS AND SECURITIES (WITH CONSIDERABLE TAX ADVANTAGES)
- SET UP SCHOLARSHIPS OR MEMORIALS FOR LOVED ONES (LEGACY GIFTS)
- FUNERAL DONATIONS
- THROUGH YOUR WILL OR TRUST
- EMPLOYEE MATCHED GIFTS—MANY COMPANIES HAVE FUNDS TO MATCH EMPLOYEES' DONATIONS
- DESIGNATE THE KILLGOAR IN YOUR UNITED WAY DRIVE - CODE #1991

Please contact your Killgoar Development Directors, Mark or Maureen Norton, at 616 322-8448 or monorton2247@gmail.com to discuss how you can make a difference at the best grade school in the area.

Thank you all for your support of the Killgoar Foundation! You continue IHM's wonderful legacy of excellence in Christ-based, rigorous academic education. At IHM School students don't just learn about their faith. They live it daily – in the classroom, at Mass and during reception of the sacraments, in the Adoration Chapel, on the playground, in athletic and extracurricular activities and through service projects. You have given our students an immeasurable gift!





IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

1935 Plymouth Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 1 VIP Day, 11:00 Mass & Reception
- 2 Women's Guild Happy Hour
- 4 May Crowning, 9:00 Mass
- 7 First Communion
- 14 Eucharistic Minister Training @11:00 am
- 29 High School Seniors Graduation Mass @11:00 am
- 30 Memorial Day, Irish Offices close at noon on
Fridays until Labor Day

JUNE

- 4 Deacon David Jameson's Ordination @ St. Andrew's
Cathedral
- 5 Father David Jameson's First Mass @11:00 &
reception following
- 10 Last Day of School
- 12 Blood Drive
- 12-28 Fr. Troy trip to Uganda
- 17-19 Steubenville Retreat for high school students

AUGUST

- 9-11 Vacation Bible School
- 13 Catholic Charities Back-to-School Confidence Day
- 21 Blood Drive
- 23 Back to school day

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IF YOU ENJOY READING THE HEARTBEAT - your help would be appreciated. We are in serious need of writers (ages 16 and up) as well as story ideas. For example, perhaps your group or project could use some advanced notice of an activity or is looking to increase its participation. For either, contact Deb Moore at djbmoore@comcast.net.



ihmparish.com



Did you know IHM has a Facebook page? Please "like us" on [Immaculate Heart of Mary - Grand Rapids](https://www.facebook.com/ImmaculateHeartofMaryGR) and follow all of our updates, postings and communications. We are just a click away!



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