

*When there are multiple pictures on a slide, the * marks when to “click”*

Opening Slide #1...Logo, Convocation, 2010

Sing Mantra

[Slide of Mantra #2] Reader 1

One Missioní í í í .Many Ministries

It is in the movement of the Spirit of Christ Jesus that we boldly recall the words of Sister Lorraine at our 2009 Convocation: **[Slide #3, S. Lorraine]**

*This is no time to sit on the sidelines of religious life. It is time for action. Hear the story! Catch the fire! Share the story. No. Live the story and pass the flame. **[Slide #4, Pass the flame]** Calling on all the sisters who have gone before us, and asking God’s blessing on one another, we commit ourselves in faith to all who will come after us. May Mary, our Mother, show us the way!*

Our heritage has called us to this day! **[Slide #5, Ripple]** Just as a stone is thrown into a lake, and the ripples it creates flow concentrically until they have all met the shore, so our lives flow forth from our center: Jesus. **[Slide #6, Jesus]** It is in Jesus, our Center and source of all life and energy, that we live and move, and in our Eucharistic Communities we share in that ripple effect of living and moving in Christ Jesus. Daily we offer prayerful support and encouragement to one another as we engage in IHM ministry, tending to God’s Word and God’s people in a variety of ministries.

[Slide #7, Go Teach] Jesus’ command to His disciples to go and teach all nations has been the root of our apostolic vision since 1845. His words and the commitment of **Father Louis Florent Gillet, **[Slide #8, Gillet, Maxis]** *Mother Theresa Maxis and our first sisters placed us on the path of educating the people of God in the message of the Gospel and in the sacramental life of the Church. It is from this initial pebble in the waters of our congregational history that our many ministries have been born and continue to bear fruit in our Church today.

Reader 2

Faithful Witness reminds us that each of us is united with the mission proclaimed by Jesus: [\[Slide #9, Faithful Witness, **\]](#)

FW p. 43 44

Each sister attests that the transformation of the world through the message of the Gospel is the mission of the Church. Thus, as an apostolic witness in her personal life and in the corporate life of the Congregation, each sister participates in this mission through the proclamation of the Gospel, the pursuit of truth, and service for peace and justice in the world.

In a particular way, Faithful Witness reiterates our purpose as a congregation:

FW #43 [\[Slide #10, FW **\]](#)

The sisters participate in the redemptive mission of the Church through the ministry of Catholic Education. Since Catholic Education is above all a matter of communicating Christ and of helping to form Christ in the lives of others, each Sister, by her witness to Christ in her life and the joyful giving of her service, enters into the apostolic purpose of the Congregation.

[\[Slide #11, log cabin\]](#) And so began our Congregational story in Monroe, Michigan.

From our foundation we have dedicated ourselves to the work of education. Originally, that work centered on the teaching of girls and women by educating them for the reception of the sacraments. Our work then extended to the arts and liberal arts in elementary schools, high schools and college. [\[Slide #12, schools, **\]](#) From day care to Montessori school to pre-school, through *elementary and high school*, to those seeking doctorates at *Immaculata University, our enthusiasm for teaching in the name of Jesus Christ has not waned.

The movement of the Spirit in our hearts and lives has allowed us to expand our good works in the name of the Gospel message, much as the spreading of waves emanates from the center. [\[Slide #13, Ripple\]](#) As each wave carries the others and moves them

smoothly to their finish, so too does our drive for education permeate and carry all of the ministries in which we find ourselves today.

Reader 1

We have indeed [Slide #14, Logo*] ***ONE MISSION AND WE ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION THROUGH MANY MINISTRIES.***

At Convocation 2009, we celebrated our early missions in education, cherishing those memories we hold in our hearts. Today, we continue our celebration in the memories being made each day through the many ministries to which we are called and in which we give generous service. For it is in our heritage and we read again in Faithful Witness the words that bind us to our commitment to spreading the message of Jesus to all those we meet:

[Slide #15, FW, **]

FW # 42.1

It is of the essence of the vocation of each sister to proclaim the Gospel to every person she meets by her living witness and loving service.

**FW # 42.2*

The mission of the Church encompasses peoples of varying races, languages, social circumstance, and cultures; therefore, each sister in her evangelizing efforts is ever receptive in spirit and responsive in action to all persons she meets.

Begin Ministries

Catholic School Education

Reader 2

As the number of full time teaching sisters has declined, so too has the complexion of our IHM schools. [Slide #16, teaching sisters, **] Long gone are the days of a teaching sister in every classroom*, yet our desire to bring the Gospel message to our school communities* gave birth to new ministries, in which our sisters creatively and

enthusiastically embraced varied areas in *schools of all academic levels. [Slide #17, **] Under the leadership of our IHM school * administrators at every level, preschool *through university, community consultants and diocesan personnel, we continue to òteach all nationsö as Jesus commissioned. [Slide # 18, Shoreline *] Just as the waves in the pond touch everything in their paths until they meet the shore, so do parents, faculty, staff and students meet our sisters and our IHM charism in every corner of the schools we staff. [Slide #19, St. Anne] Sisters ministering as receptionists are the first face of Jesus that many see as they enter the schools. Our principals and vice-principals depend daily on the expertise of our sisters teaching in the classroom, as well as administrative assistants, clerical assistants, and all others in auxiliary positions. [Slide #20, Claire, **] Our sisters teaching religious enrichment bring our Catholic * traditions, the lives of our saints and Biblical stories alive to our young children. [Slide # 21, Banner, **] Tutoring in our schools *, as well as in our centers at St. Martinø and St. Aloysius Academy, * make extra study and assistance available for students who may need some extra help or a challenge.

Special Education

[Slide # 22, Judy**] Students with special needs find a home in our IHM schools as well. Our Lady of Confidence Day School, St. Lucy Day School for Children with Visual Impairments *, and Archbishop Ryan School for the Hearing Impaired offer Catholic atmospheres in which children receive quality education with special attention given to their areas of need.* Sisters trained in special education in the areas of learning disabilities, hearing and visual impairments provide loving and superior education to the students entrusted to them.

Reader 1

Religious Education

[Slide #23, Kathy Benham, **] As the need for a more comprehensive religious education became evident, the role of Director of Religious Education and Coordinator of Religious Education became more apparent. * Religious education classes, as well as sacramental preparation classes, grew in development and in substance. DREø and

CREØ take on great responsibility in directing parish catechetical and faith formation programs. It is often the DRE who: *

- Works in collaboration with the parish staff offering direction and vision for catechesis in the parish *
- Plans periodic meetings with catechetical staff, overseeing their formation in accord with the current Archdiocesan / Diocesan program requirements

Reader 2

Development

[Slide #24, Catholic Schools **] If Catholic Education were free, we all know that our schools would be full! Unfortunately, the economy and rising costs of education often means that **[Slide #25, **]** students and their parents who would love to enroll in our schools must make other choices. Taking this challenge head on, we have many sisters * dedicated to developing funding programs to open the choice for Catholic Education. *Our own Office for Ministry Advancement, along with many parishes and schools, pursue every opportunity in building a Development Fund that will * enable students to attend our schools. As we engage GodØ people in this ministry, they are invited to open their * hearts to give in return what has been given to them. It is with promises of prayers and hope for a brighter future for our youth that we invite others to support our ministry.

Reader 1

Latin America

[Slide # 26, Collage **] Our drive for educating GodØ people did not stop at the borders of the United States. In 1922, Monsenor Emilio Lisson, Archbishop of Lima, Peru, wrote to Dennis Cardinal Dougherty expressing the need for a religious * congregation to come to Peru and establish a school where the English language, * coupled with the Gospel values, would be taught. * Cardinal Dougherty invited our community and this endeavor was enthusiastically embraced. * Our first missionaries to South America set sail on November 30, 1922 and began a legacy that extended beyond Peru into Chile, where we began our ministry in 1940.

* As IHMs we have all been enriched by the experiences of those who generously answered the * call to serve in **Latin America**. Although we are in transition in * Chile, it is our hope and belief that our * IHM charism is rooted there and will continue to be a guiding force in years to come.

Reader 2

Hispanic Ministry

Here in the United States our ministry to the **Latino Community** [Slide # 27, **] has been a strong and lasting influence in many Regions where we serve. As a *congregation that recognizes the growing * Latino Community among us, we strive to meet this need by entering into the Latino expression of Eucharist and sacramental life, * recognizing the importance of family, music and shared celebration that is unique to our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Camden, Reading, West Chester, Philadelphia, Chester, Raleigh, Shenandoah, Virginia, Connecticut, * ***wherever the need is***, our Sisters make the effort to reach out to embrace God's people, not only of Hispanic background, but of the many cultures we meet each day.

Reader 1

The first ***IHM Literacy Center*** opened full time in June of 1989 in the Olney Section of Philadelphia at Incarnation Parish. [Slide #28, Literacy, **] The second site at St. Francis de Sales Parish opened in 1990. Although this program was initially established for non-English speaking residents of the area, * it soon expanded to meet the needs of any resident in all areas of education, providing not only the opportunity to learn the English language, * but also making available programs to earn GED's, life skills, and job skills . The IHM Family literacy Center * opened its doors in 2002 at St. Joachim Parish in North Philadelphia. * It is currently located in Coatesville and provides school readiness programs for young children, as well as an adult program focused on parenting skills and English as a second language.

Reader 2

Chapter 1988 mandated the formation of the *IHM Spirituality Center*. In 1993, that mandate was brought to fruition with the opening of the Spirituality Center at Villa Maria House of Studies. [Slide # 29, Spirituality Center, **] This sacred space was envisioned to be a kind of house of prayer; a retreat house like Stone Harbor but closer to * home, as well as a staffed center where both sisters and lay people could come and pray. Many IHMs have enjoyed much quiet and solitude during our annual retreats, as well as weekend time apart.* As we recognized the need for similar centers, the Bryn Mawr Conference Center on the grounds of Wootton came to life. Here, as in the Spirituality Center, a * wide variety of groups enjoy the hospitality that our sisters who minister there provide. * Everyone agrees that there are no greater places of beauty for renewing the heart and soul!

Reader 1

Social Outreach

As daughters of St. Alphonsus we have been called from the beginning days of our existence to evangelize the poor and give special aid to the most abandoned. [Slide #30, **] In every convent home we strive to recognize the poor among us and render assistance when possible. * Whether through our own Fund for the Poor, the Food Pantries in Philadelphia and Chester, the Day Room at St. Agnes, contributing to our Tri-community Haitian Project, or meeting the call to respond to natural disasters * that befall our brothers and sisters in Christ, our IHM charism brings forth from us a determined desire to let those in need know the loving touch of God through human kindness.

Reader 2

House of Prayer

Due to the success and graces gained from the establishment of summer houses of prayer, [Slide #31, **] the Chapter of 1988 approved the establishment of an ongoing House of Prayer. * Our own House of Prayer, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Convent, is a place

where the emphasis is on being rather than doing. * Prayer in its many forms is the foremost ministry of the sisters who especially hold the * intentions of many people in their hearts and prayers. * It is with grateful praise and thanksgiving to God that we recognize the flow of graces from this mountain home to all of our lives and IHM ministries.

Reader 1

Liturgy/Adult Faith Formation/Director of Pastoral Services

The life of a parish [Slide #32, **] lies in its dedication to the sacramental life that * Jesus offers. Our sisters assist in bringing enthusiasm and devotion to parishes and to our own convent homes through their ministries in pastoral services, adult faith formation and liturgy. [Slide #33, **] Through their education in music and liturgical celebration, our sisters enhance the sacramental lives of those with whom they minister and worship. * Sisters involved in adult faith formation and pastoral services assist the life of the parish through continued education in faith formation and in assisting people to prepare for the reception of the sacraments and entrance into the Church. * Our sisters dedicate themselves to the entire parish community as they strive to bring the living Christ to each person they meet.

Reader 2

Nursing Home/Parish Visitor/Hospital Visitor/Chaplain

[Slide # 34, **] In 1918, when the flu epidemic touched the Philadelphia area, over four hundred IHM sisters ministered to the sick and dying in hospitals, emergency hospitals and private homes. * Today's IHMs also minister to the sick and elderly in their homes, in hospitals, in nursing homes and in retirement communities. * A number of our sisters who move from the classroom, but not from active ministry, take on this new service to the sick and elderly in parish home bound programs, hospitals or nursing homes. * Wherever sisters are present, tending to the needs of those suffering physically, they are ever mindful of the Lord's call to visit the sick, comfort the sorrowing and when necessary, bury the dead.

Reader 1

Villa Maria House of Studies

The place we call home is indeed a place of many ministries! [Slide #35, **] Our Villa Maria House of Studies is home to our General Administration, our House of Formation, Villa Maria Academy (Lower School), and the many apostolates of hospitality and administration that keep us all going!

* It is here that our Sisters in the General Administration hold the concerns of our Congregation in prayer and in their hearts, as they meet regularly, discussing and planning the needs of the community and how best to continue our mission as IHMs.

* Our local community sisters at Villa Maria take on many responsibilities, from answering the phone, to assisting us with medical bills, to fixing our computers

* countless and endless tasks that assist us in continuing our own ministries.

* It is here that our newest members observe and learn the traditions that make us who we are. Our sisters in formation, within their formative communities in both Strafford and Villa Maria, become imbued with our IHM spirit and charism as they enter into the prayer and everyday living of our sisters.

* It is here that the young students at Villa Maria Academy (Lower School) learn the charism of the congregation, as well as how to integrate it into their daily lives:

“Leadership and Service in the IHM Tradition”

And it is here that the IHM Director of Communications continues to oversee official communications and capitalize on the wonders of technology by updating and enhancing the congregational web site.

Reader 2

Camilla & Pacis

The journey for the rippling water ends at the shore. It is there that the movements of the waves slow down and the waters become peacefully quiet and whole. [Slide # 36, Camilla **] For most of us that shore will be our own Powerhouse of Prayer, Camilla. We know it is impossible to explore the riches of Camilla without including our devoted sisters who reside in * Pacis Hall. Through each sister's ministry in Camilla and Pacis, there comes to life the words of Jesus: * *Love one another as I have loved you.* In this, the most blessed of our convent homes, our sisters * pray for our Congregation, the Church and world needs as they continue to minister to one another in their daily interactions. * Whether nursing our sisters to wellness, * tending to administrative needs, feeding another sister, * assisting in candy making or the laundry, answering the phone or * praying before the Most Blessed Sacrament, our sisters, on whose shoulders we stand, continue to provide for us the example and strength needed for our daily ministries in God's world.

[Slide # 37, Mantra]

Sing Mantra

There are many different gifts, but the same spirit gives them.

There are many ways to serve, but the same Lord is served.

Reader 1

[Slide # 38, Shoreline, **]

And what happens when the waves do reach the shore? They do not stay there and glory in the end. No! * They flow back into the water and become one again with their source, readying themselves for the next step of the journey. We, too, do not ever really reach the shore. * We return again and again to the source of our being, to be fed and readied for the unknown and unfinished paths in our journeys. We continually hear and answer the call to *Teach all Nations.* And we do this **UNITED IN ONE MISSION DEDICATED TO MANY MINISTRIES.** [Slide # 39 Jesus, **] We are fed and strengthened by Eucharist and Community. We move forward as women of the Church,

Disciples of Jesus, * Servants of Mary. * Today, we prayerfully celebrate the service we wholeheartedly give to, our God, our world, our church and one another.

SING: *WOMEN OF THE CHURCH*

Slides 40 – 49 Correspond to the hymn above. There are two slides for each refrain and verse. One is “women of the Church”, followed by pictures. There are five sets of these.

The last slide is “Women of the Church . . . in one mission, many ministries”