



Winter 2006

New Life NOTES

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Scranton, Pennsylvania

A Week in the Life of a Canonical Novice

Canonical year is a year filled with many and varied activities

by Rose Marie Mozzachio, IHM

Welcoming Our Novices

On August 27, 2005, the IHM Congregation welcomed Carrie Flood and Rachel Terry into the novitiate to begin their canonical year. Carrie and Rachel used the theme "...it becomes like fire burning in my heart..." taken from Jeremiah 20:9, the first reading for the liturgy of the day. Both women expressed their "deepest desire to follow Christ with singleness of heart and to embrace a life of celibate loving for the sake of the kingdom." The community gathered with extended hands and prayed together, "Loving God, source of all life and goodness and grace, bless our Sisters Carrie and Rachel, as they begin this period of prayer and study."

Purpose of Canonical Year

The novitiate marks a commitment to a continuation of growth in community living. During this time, the novice strives to grow in a love relationship with Christ and in a life led in imitation of him. It is a time of prayer and study. It is a time to reflect more deeply upon the word of God and the de-

sires of the heart. Canonical year provides the novice with experiences, instruction and guidance in the implementation of the contemplative and apostolic dimensions of our life in the context of the mentoring community.

Areas of Study

The areas of study during this year are comprehensive. We use the expertise and experience of our own Sisters as well as persons involved in formation studies in the Intercommunity Program.



Novitiate mentoring community at the IHM Spiritual Renewal Center, Cresco. (L-R Back) Srs. Francis Xavier Grieb, Maristella Walsh, Patricia Stack, Rose Marie Mozzachio (Center) Denise Lyon, Rachel Terry (Front) Joel Marie Sheehee, Carrie Flood. Sr. Ann Mary Boslett not pictured.

Congregational Classes

The history of the Congregation was presented by Srs. Michel Keenan and Margaret Gannon. During the fall, Srs. Rachel, Carrie and Rose Marie participated each Thursday evening in a discussion of the book, "Selling All," with the Sisters at Theresa of Avila Community in Dunmore. During the spring, group discussion will center on IHM Constitutions, Charism and Core Values with the Sisters in our local community in Cresco.

What is the weekly schedule?

Monday	Volunteer ministry
Tuesday & Wednesday	Intercommunity Program
Thursday	Congregation Classes - History of the Congregation - Alphonsian Spirituality - Vows - Charism and Core Values - Constitutions
Friday	Day of Integration (personal prayer, study, spiritual reading, reflection, discussion with the director)
Saturday	A day to relax, have fun, and spend time with friends

Intercommunity Program

The Intercommunity Program meets weekly. The program is a collaborative approach to initial formation. There is an opportunity for interaction with peers, men and women from six other congregations, who are on this same journey. It offers courses and shorter modules on topics pertinent to the canonical novitiate experience. There is time for Eucharist, common prayer, sharing of history and charism. The courses include: Theology of the Vows, Pastoral Liturgy, History of Religious Life, Personal Integration, Prayer, Community, Theology of Religious Life, Conflict/Communication Skills, Jesus and the Gospels. Shorter presentations are given on Nutrition and Self Care, "Art and Soul," Social Justice, Sexuality, Family System/Culture of Religious Life.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Full participation in local community activities
- Mission Group meetings
- Pre-chapter meetings
- Workshops and presentations
- Experience working with the poor with our Sisters in Peru for the month of January

Do you remember your novitiate days?

When you honestly reflect on the impact of the novitiate in your life, can you remember that it was a time when you met Jesus, really met Him? A time when you experienced God's love and entered "more fully into knowing and living the IHM charism?" It is good to go back and remember how you listened and continue to "listen deeply for the manifestation of God's will and to allow Gospel principles to permeate every aspect of community and ministry." (Rite of Initiation)

Vocation Awareness Programs for High School Students April 5 & 6, 2006

All IHM Sisters are invited to bring sophomore high school students to either day in April to the IHM Center to participate in "The Gift of Mission" days that have been planned by the Collaborative Vocation Committee for the Diocese of Scranton. Sr. Mary Persico is the keynote speaker for both days. The day also includes prayer; mini-workshops on prayer, community, ministry and discernment; a "Light-Styles" game and a panel discussion for questions and answers.

July 2006

This year the IHM Service Trip will travel to Wilmington, Delaware to work with Ministry of Caring in a variety of ways. The Ministry of Caring is a non-profit, ecumenical organization devoted to serving poor, homeless, and disadvantaged people in and around the Wilmington area. The Ministry of Caring offers food, shelter, job training and placement, child care, basic medical and dental care, a residence for people living with AIDS, clothing and household goods for those in need. We will be providing both direct assistance to their various programs but also help in creating an "extreme makeover" at their different ministry sites. More detailed information will be available in the upcoming March newsletter and mailings.

Save the Dates:

February 4, 2006
Discernment Day – for Young Adults
IHM Center, Scranton, PA

World Day for Consecrated Life
February 5, 2006

March 31-April 2, 2006
"Seeds of Possibilities"
Young Adults Ages 18-35
IHM Spiritual Renewal Center, Cresco, PA

April 5 and 6, 2006
"The Gift of Mission"
Vocation Awareness Program
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
IHM Center, Scranton, PA

World Day of Prayer for Vocations
May 7, 2006

IHM Service Trip
July 2006

