



IHM Spirituality Ministries Update A Report to the IHM Coordinating Council

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It's hard to image that the pandemic has lasted this long into the Fall of its second year. Our spirituality ministries have continued through it all albeit in ever-evolving ways, much like many other organizations. Although the pandemic has meant fewer and smaller in-person programs, services, and gatherings over the last year, the spiritual needs of people have only grown. And so we have offered many ways for people to connect with us and with one another through safe in-person opportunities (observing the most current mandates from the Center for Disease Control and the State of Michigan) and through online opportunities.

Now, in addition to our three IHM Centers and the IHM Senior Living Community (IHMSLC), we have a growing "remote" audience of people across the globe who are able to engage with our spirituality ministries through webinars, spiritual direction by telephone or video, and resources by email and online. This diversification of our offerings came primarily in response to the pandemic, but it is a major component of the long-term strategy of the IHM Spirituality Ministries (IHMSM). It will allow us to grow awareness about and audiences for the centers, the Margaret Brennan Institute (MBI), and IHM in general.

With that in mind, we are committed to the following:

1. Continuing our mission at the three centers, the IHMSLC and the MBI through programs, retreats, services, facilities, etc.
2. Moving into the second stage of the overall IHMSM strategic framework developed in 2020, focusing now on boosting up areas of greatest need, such as spiritual direction, and the development of a marketing plan.
3. Developing a robust online presence via the social media, IHM Website, the Sophia Forum, and more.

Here are some highlights of the IHM Spirituality Ministries

Visitation Spirituality Center (Bloomfield Hills)

Visitation is open and offering programs, directed retreats and services at the center and "on call" in the local community. Ongoing programs include the "Finding God in the Dark" series and "Musings over Mugs."

Upcoming special interest programs include: "The Sermon on the Mount: Instruction Manual for Living" (October 23); "Engendering an Integrated Christian Spirituality" - Reflecting on *Laudato Si'* (October 30); Reflecting on *Fratelli Tutti* (November 13); "Advent of the Heart" (December 11); and "Out with the Old/In with the New: New Year's Eve Retreat (December 31).

River House – IHM Spirituality Center (Monroe)

River House is open and offering programs, private retreats, and services at the center. The house is open for quiet time during weekdays from 9 am to 4 p.m. Many people have enjoyed the River House campus especially the light breeze off the River Raisin

and a new brand new fireplace. There have also been many overnight guests for private retreats. River House has been nurturing a new ministry – the needs of families of people in IHM Health Care, especially for compassionate care. River House regularly hosts spiritual direction meetings.

Upcoming special interest programs include: a weekly Scripture class; and “Hope for the Holidays” (November 15).

Maxis Spirituality Center (Riverview)

Maxis is open and offering private retreats, programs, and meeting spaces. It has been especially busy in hosting IHM groups including Mission Circles, committees, and the OSPIHM leaders for the 175th. As the newest IHM spirituality center, we continue to assess the audience for Maxis and are planning offerings which will suit their needs. We are also exploring more use of webinars for programming and a concerted effort in marketing and promotion.

Upcoming special interest programs include: “God's Dream for a Non-Violent Humanity” (October 23); and “Advent: Making Way for Silence” (December TBD).

Margaret Brennan Institute

The MBI began in 2017 with an all-day conference followed by another in 2019. With the pandemic in mind, the MBI committee decided to switch to webinar offerings in 2021 and going forward in order to expand the audience beyond southeast Michigan and to begin attracting a more diverse, global group of people. In March, the inaugural webinar with Dr. Daniel Horan, OFM, brought in a huge audience followed by a webinar series on spirituality with Dr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM, in June. We are hoping to continue the series in the Fall and are exploring topics for 2022 including webinars on creating the Beloved Community.

IHMSLC Spirituality Committee

Despite the restrictions at the Motherhouse due to COVID-19 safety, the spirituality committee has been able to offer some in person and Channel 12 programs. In May, we had our first in person event since COVID-19 began. Dr. Kathy Duffy, SSJ, came to the Motherhouse to lead a retreat, “Embracing Struggle: Walking with Teilhard de Chardin.” This was one of our first “hybrid” events in that it was offered in person, as a webinar, and via Channel 12! We learned a lot about how to do these and it will help us in the future. We continue to develop Channel 73 which will be an in-house channel dedicated to spirituality programming.

Upcoming special interest programs include: “Boundless Compassion” (Saturdays in October); and “Being Comadres: Recognizing God With Us” (December 10).

In addition to all the “ordinary” work of the IHMSM, each center and the motherhouse will be hosting the “Weaving Our Roots” retreats for the Chapter Direction on Spirituality process, “Exploration into Spirituality.” The staff has been involved in various parts of the process (Julie is on the Direction on Spirituality committee) which has opened up new ideas on how to share our

IHM spirituality and the Chapter Direction with others. This is an ongoing conversation and a fruitful one.

We are grateful for your engagement with and support of the IHM Spirituality Ministries. We welcome your ideas, questions, and participation!