Living Sustainably as part of Spiritual Practice

Notre Dame Conference
October 10, 2009
Models for the Catholic University

- Reverend Charles Morris, Founder, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light and Pastor, St. Elizabeth Parish, Wyandotte, Michigan

- Danielle Conroyd, Project Director, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters’ Monroe Campus Long Range Master Plan
IHM Motherhouse Renovation: A Story of Transformation and A Legacy of Education
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Built in 1932 – Monroe, Michigan
IHMs Founded 1845: Monroe, MI

"Urgent necessity" educate girls of "frontier"

Louis Gillet

Theresa Maxis
From Log Cabin Beginnings...

To Establishing Educational Institutions and Staffing Parish Parochial Schools
Marygrove College
Detroit, Michigan
Staffed 121 elementary schools
49 high schools
Africa
South America

Middle East
“Respond to the world’s most pressing needs”

Mother Ruth Hankerd and Sister Miriam Raymo
Urged by the love of God, we choose to work with others to build a culture of peace and right relationships among ourselves, with the Church, and with the whole Earth community.
IHM Demographics

- 480 vowed members
- 119 associates
- 36.5% retired/infirm
- 77.8% over age 65
- 75 years median age
Discernment Process
Prayer and Foundational Questions

Creator God, who feeds the birds of the air and clothes the lilies of the field, we thank you for your faithful love all down the year. We celebrate our sisters whose faith, foresight, and courage have blessed us with a rich heritage. With them we pray for your continued blessing at this new moment of grace.

We believe you are with us, gifting us with wisdom and courage as together we discern what is essential and what can be let go, recognize what will revitalize our IHM life and mission, risk deeds our own hearts could never dream.

Rooted in the liberating mission of Jesus, we are conscious of our commitment to stand with and for those who are poor and oppressed, our interconnectedness with all of creation and our desire for transformation. We place this work in your hands. May we move gracefully into a future full of hope making our home in you. Amen.
Vision Emerged of Sustainable Future
Reuse existing building
Sustainable Renovation

Motherhouse Renovation Project
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

610 West Elm Avenue, Monroe, Michigan 48162

Owner
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Architect
Susan Maxman & Partners

Construction Manager
The Christman Company
(734) 240-9698
The IHM Commitment to Sustainability as a Moral Mandate

“Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The World Commission on Environment and Development