The Renovation
Blue Nuns Go Green
Vision Translated

- Reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink
- Choose passive natural energy systems
- Reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources
- Design indoor and outdoor space that promotes sustainable community
- Use products that reduce footprint
- Restore site
“We examined our concerns and differences in light of our vision, asking the guidance of the Spirit throughout. We did this over and over until our decision to renovate the Motherhouse, according to sustainable design principles, came from a peaceful place; until it felt like an act of love for our elders and for the Earth.”

Mary McCann, IHM
Transition Ritual

At This New Moment of Grace: Renovation of the Motherhouse

We are using River Raisin* water as our visible symbol. In the Christian tradition, Living Water which continually transforms its shape and power is an image for God. It has elements that are like us in this moment. Our IHM life on this side of the river bed has changed over time and will continue to change, while we and the river remain together in this place.

You are invited to use the water to bless places that are sacred to you. Be attentive to what is happening within you. Use this common ritual as often as you need and in whatever way is meaningful for you.

Bless a place in the building, on the grounds or in your body, heart and mind to be open for your own transformation and what this new moment of grace will mean for all of us.

Our prayer continues to be that all shall be well.

*If you are at a distance and will not be in Monroe between May and the move out of the building (likely in September, 2000), use water from a river bed near your own site. Water all over the earth is connected and transformed over and over. Rain, snow, or fog has been created by some form of Raisin River water over many thousands of years!
Preparing for Change

The Kissing Hand
by AUDREY PENN

Illustrations by Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leek
Child & Family Press

IRA SLEEPS OVER

BERNARD WABER

What to Take and What to Leave
Motherhouse Renovation Project

for the

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Monroe, Michigan

TRADESPERSON ORIENTATION PROGRAM

November 2000
376,000 Square Feet of Total Demo and Renovation
Asbestos abatement
Mass Demolition
Completed Mass Demo
Metaphor for Holding Space Open
Recycling

- Mass Demo 77% by weight
- New Construction 23% by weight
- Weighted average 73%
Doors, Wood Trim, Parquet Floors, Wainscoting

600 wood doors salvaged; 450 reused in renovation
Light Fixtures
Over 100 period light fixtures retrofitted and reinstalled
45,260 Square Feet
Carpet Reclaimed
Ann Arbor Reuse Center

- Sinks
- Toilets
- Cabinets
- Doors
- Hardware
- Radiators
- Guardrails
- Handrails
- Furniture
- Fire Alarms
- Light Fixtures
Marble Saved and Reused
Asphalt and Brick Salvage

Broken asphalt reused as gravel base

Removed brick saved for tooth-in and infill
Topsoil removed during earthwork reused in landscaping
Preserve and Enhance Existing Trees and Landscape Features

- Tree inventory of 163 trees
- Trees 100+ years old are native
- Oak savanna woodland a unique ecosystem
- Historic and ecological value
History of Respect for Land and Living Things
Challenged, Stretched, Changed
Site Restoration
Diversify and Restore Site with Meadow Savanna

- Conversion of 5 acres of lawn to meadow
- Improve bio-diversity of site
- Protect existing natural habitat
- Reduce labor and equipment costs
Native Flowers in Prairies

[Images of native flowers in prairies]
Constructed Wetlands

- Wet meadows
- Surface flow
- Treat gray water
- Imitate natural wetlands process
Natural Drainage Systems

- Swales in the parking lots
- Storm water retention
- Habitat restoration and protection
- Native grasses and wildflowers
Universal Design

- Elevators
- Doorways
- Fixtures
- Furnishings
Elevation of Dining Cloister