



Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Office of Development

February 14, 2011

It's time to visit one of the dearest IBVM Sisters I know. Her name is Therese O'Sullivan. She is a pretty mighty Sister, standing a mere five feet tall. She speaks softly and lovingly about her work in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago. But Sr. Therese, in spite of her small stature, is one tough lady! Where she lives and works is a rough-and-tumble area. It's known in gang circles to be one of crime; drugs are part of a network that encompasses most street corners. Shootings occur so frequently that staying in your car with your doors locked does not secure your safety, nor does being in your own home.

The Woodlawn neighborhood in the 1950s and 60s conjures up images of perfectly manicured lawns and school children skipping rope on sidewalks or playing baseball. This is where our Loretto Sisters taught and you might have attended school or lived. Among



Therese O'Sullivan, IBVM

the IBVM's achievements was teaching children to succeed not just in the classroom but in life.



Irene Gavin and Florence Hayes, IBVMs, at Loretto Academy in 1961

So here we are in the 21st century, in an era in which the uncertainty of living in a downturned economy continues to stress even those living fairly comfortably. I often stop and think about the tens of thousands who cannot make ends meet. Then there are those who make bad choices and become caught in a downward spiral. Can they find a place to call home and find comfort?

I would like to contribute to the work of the IBVM Sisters.

My gift is given as a living tribute in honor of _____

My gift is given as a memorial in honor of _____

Your gift is tax-deductible within the guidelines established by the IRS.

Thank you for your generosity.



Sister Therese talks with a friend at the Loretto Gala

One IBVM Sister is doing just that on the South side of Chicago and she needs your support.

For 22 years Sr. Therese has maintained a presence at St. Martin de Porres House of Hope. She sees the fragile side of society, one rife with gangs, drugs and violence. She has been opening her door to wayward women who are looking to better their lives and find peace. They are on their way to recovery from being dependent on alcohol, drugs and, in many cases, abusive relationships. Some receive public assistance and will be able to make their way in life once they “get clean” from their past decisions. It’s a middle ground for women who need a place of refuge, where they become educated about making better choices for their futures.

At St. Martin de Porres, Sr. Therese’s women take parenting, grammar and computer classes, mainly taught by volunteers, and learn to fully engage in life. Their children can attend preschool there too. She makes sure

that each is given a warm bed, food and education. It’s pretty basic—however this ministry cannot be done without financial assistance. The House of Hope receives no government funding. Like our other ministries, we must offset the costs of providing aid and education to the women and children we serve. Sr. Therese’s ministry at St. Martin de Porres House of Hope is one example of where the need is enormous. With shortfalls in funding for government programs, we are serving even more people these days. We ask you to help us with these costs by making as generous a donation as you can. Our IBVM ministries and the retired Sisters depend on you; for that we are so grateful. Through prayers and your generosity, our ministries will be places of hope and dreams for the future.

Sincerely,

Anne Delaney
Director of Development

*P.O. Box 508 • Wheaton, Illinois 60187-0508
630.682.9097 • Fax: 630.653.0826 • www.ibvm.us*

Please make check payable to IBVM Office of Development.

VISA/MC# _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

We would like to remember you on your birthday. Birthday: ____/____/____ (Hers) ____/____/____ (His)

***IBVM Office of Development • P.O. Box 508 • Wheaton, Illinois 60187-0508
(630) 682-9097 • development@ibvm.org***