

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Office of Development



November 25, 2009

Moving is for the birds! Think about it. Birds don't have to pack boxes, look for movers, change an address with the post office or remember to turn off the utilities. All they have to do is to take off!

For us moving is just the opposite. It poses massive challenges. Our only choice is to rise up and meet them. At some point in life, we all have to do it. Going off to college, relocating for a new job, building a dream home or downsizing provide valuable opportunities for us to learn the art of moving. Later in life, one move that most of us prefer not to think about is the move to a long-term health care facility.

This past year we gathered on four separate occasions to bless an IBVM Sister as she set forth on that journey. Mary (Cecily) Creighton, Jeannette Shean, Mary (Felicitas) Madigan and Alice Whitehead



Mary Madigan and Mary Creighton, IBVMs

have become our newest residents at Resurrection Life Center in Chicago. Each of these Sisters realized that she needed nursing care. With the help of Rosemary Lynch, our IBVM Provincial, the transitions were made. It is a blessing for us to see each of these Sisters being cared for in a way that we could not provide at Loretto Convent in Wheaton.



Alice Whitehead and Jeannette Shean, IBVMs

At Loretto Convent in Wheaton your donations have enabled us to have a nurse and a housekeeper on staff to assist our retired Sisters with their medical and physical needs. We couldn't have done it without you. However, with the economy the way it is, we've had to cut back: the Sisters now have this help eight hours a day from Monday through Friday. So far we've survived the weekends knowing that Monday will come!

We encourage our Sisters to "retire in place." They really like that! Every IBVM community house has some Sisters who are retired or semi-retired living with Sisters who are engaged in full-time ministry. When Sisters need more help, they usually come to Loretto Wheaton where they can receive the extra assistance from our nurse and housekeeper.

You might be wondering about our IBVM Sisters in Arizona and California—they don't have a Resurrection Life Center where they are. Once again, your donations have helped care for the Sisters where they presently live. That may have to change in time when medical needs require skilled nursing care.

Early in November Francis (de Sales) Clarke, IBVM, will move directly from Sacramento to Resurrection Life Center. There she will join our nine IBVM Sisters currently in residence. Sister Francis has lived and ministered in California for over 50 years. This is a major move for her and for the Sisters with whom she has lived. With the new technologies available, she will be communicating with her faithful friends electronically through email. Our Sisters at Resurrection look forward to her arrival. She will have plenty of help as she begins her orientation and revisits her childhood memories of Chicago winters.



Francis Clarke, IBVM; Mercedes Braga, SHF; Esther O'Mara, IBVM; and Mary Carton, IBVM (clockwise from bottom left).



Sisters of the St. John of the Cross Community: Kay Foley, Josephine O'Brien, Marilyn Marsh and Christa Parra, IBVMs.

There was a time when we had an infirmary at Loretto Convent in Wheaton to provide for the needs of our retired and infirm Sisters. However the rising costs of maintaining a health care facility forced us to realize that we couldn't do it alone. We needed help. Several other religious communities were in the same position. We joined together to explore the possibility of an intercommunity retirement center. In 1997 Resurrection Life Center opened its doors to care for men and women religious needing nursing care in their retirement years. Seven IBVM Sisters were among the first residents.

Please consider reaching out and helping us provide for the needs of our retired and infirm Sisters and for the support of our ministries which hold a very special place in their prayers and in their hearts. Your donation will enable us to move forward in our efforts to serve the Church and meet the needs of our times. This is our 400th Anniversary year. With your prayers and continued support, we look forward to a future filled with hope. God bless you.

Gratefully,

Kay Foley, IBVM

Kay Foley, IBVM
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