



Winter 2012

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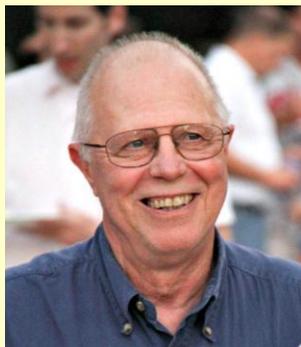
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A Message from Our Principal



Dear IHM Alumni,

We have celebrated Thanksgiving, Advent is upon us, and Christmas is in sight. It is this time of year that we often are so busy making sure that things get done that we leave little time for reflection. The house needs to be decorated, gifts need to be purchased, and holiday plans need to be made.

I encourage you to take a little time to do some inward reflection and cultivate your spiritual connections. The time you spent at IHM was a time when you formed your religious values and established your character. I would ask you to revisit those values at this holy time of the year. I have found that IHM is a wonderful place to prepare for the Christmas season. Our focus is on Christ the Lord and the meaning of his birth. Maybe this year is a good time to reconnect and look at the many blessings that we have received.

Speaking of reconnecting, please make plans to visit us to celebrate Mass together and socialize on Saturday, February 9, when we host our second annual Alumni Mass and Reception. The feeling here is still one of family and we welcome you back whenever you have time to visit.

Warm greetings to you and your family as we all prepare for the coming of Christ.

God bless,

Jim Lee

The Season of Giving

By Jennifer Sedlack, Development Director

IHM School is in its 54th year of existence and as we continue to grow and flourish as a school, we must ensure that future generations have access to a quality Christian education at a reasonable price.

Giving back, as one is able, shows a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness to IHM School and the people of IHM, and helps keep it strong for the next generation. ***In honor of our 54th year, and in appreciation for your years at IHM, will you make a gift of \$54 in support of the IHM Endowment Fund?*** Your gift, whatever size, will continue to benefit the school and its students in perpetuity.

Years ago the school had the foresight to establish an endowment fund, which will provide a perpetual source of income for the school once we reach the \$1 million threshold. Any gifts given to the IHM Endowment Fund remain in the fund forever; only the interest income can be used.

Currently the corpus, or principal, is \$232,000 and a generous alumnus has committed \$1 million to the Fund. Our goal is to continue to grow the Fund well past the \$1 million mark, so we will have a solid source of funding to continue our work.

I am thankful for each of you who are alumni. Those who invest financially in the mission and work of IHM School have my special gratitude. Alumni support is a key factor in the success and growth of our school. May you each have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gifts may be made online by following this link: [Click Here](#)

Joe Camacho '99 Speaks at IHM Veterans Day Celebration

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School hosted a Veterans Day Celebration honoring all active and retired military personnel. The event included a special assembly and reception where 2nd grade students paid tribute to the veterans by singing patriotic songs. Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan attended.

Joe Camacho '99 was the guest speaker. Joe was a sergeant in the Army and was tasked with infantry and convoy security. "Serving my country means the world to me. I love this country's freedom and way of life. I wanted to do my part to maintain it for many generations to come," says Joe.

Currently Joe serves as the House Manager of the Ronald McDonald House in Sandy Springs. Ronald McDonald Houses serve as a home away from home for sick children and their families. According to Joe, "The best part of my job is seeing the children that have been injured in various ways come to our house not being able to walk or talk. And after three months of rehab these kids are walking and talking. You can't get them to sit still! I love to see the fighting spirit these kids have. If this is the last job I ever have I will be the luckiest guy alive."

Three of Joe's aunts attended IHM as well. **Yvonne Camacho '73** is a head nurse at a hospital in Texas. **Joana Camacho '77** is a Catholic school principal in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and **Vivian Camacho '80** is a lawyer in Texas and works for Houston Baptist College.

In conjunction with the Veteran's Day celebration, IHM School collected items for Military Care Packages. Students assembled and shipped 36 packages full of items such as gum, ramen noodles, toiletries, granola bars, candy, and much more for soldiers currently serving our country. Two of the boxes were sent to soldiers who are relatives of IHM students.

Veterans Day has been a special celebration at IHM for twelve years.

Calendar of Events

Catholic Schools Week

January 28 - February 3

The students will be treated to special activities all week long in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. In addition, Mrs. Carmen Graciaa, Director of Faith Formation and the IHM School Employee of the Year, will be honored at an Archdiocesan banquet.

Application Deadline for New 2013-2014 Students

February 1

IHM has a strong tradition of legacy students. This year 50 students, or 10% of the student body, have parents who also attended IHM School. Consider sending your child to IHM School! Applications are available in our front office or online at www.ihmschool.org.

Save the Date! Alumni Mass and Reception

February 9

The IHM Alumni Committee is hosting its second annual Alumni Mass and Reception on Saturday, February 9, at 4:00 pm at IHM Church. A reception will immediately follow in the lower level room. Please join us for fellowship and light refreshments. **Father Kevin Peek '84** will concelebrate the Mass with Father Jim Schillinger.



**Ruthie Patch, Joe Camacho '99,
and Beverly Moody**

Lenten Fish Fry

February 15, March 1, and March 15
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Enjoy a fish supper in the school cafeteria and relive your days as a student! Everyone is welcome.

Middle School Explore Day

March 15

Explore Day is an opportunity for our middle school students to learn about different professions, hobbies, and sports. If you would like to share your talent or trade with our students contact Mrs. Haydee Vader at hvader@ihmschool.org.

Living Stations of the Cross

March 27
Beginning at 8:30 am
School Parking Lot

Join our school in observing the Living Stations of the Cross hosted by our 7th graders.

IHM Grandmother Celebrates Her 20th Grandparents' Day Event



Mrs. Elena Torres is no stranger to IHM. She's been attending IHM Grandparents' Days for twenty years now. It all began in 1993 when her oldest granddaughter **Kristina Mitchell '02** was in kindergarten. Kristina's sisters **Patricia Mitchell '04**, **Sarah Mitchell '06** and **Claire Mitchell '13** followed. Mrs. Torres is also grand aunt to **Cristian Young '03** and **Paloma Young '10**, as well as **Alex Duckett '17** and **Ariana Duckett '18**.

IHM held Grandparents' Day on Tuesday, November 20, and Mrs. Torres was recognized for her two decades of support. Happy Grandparents' Day, Mrs. Torres!

Marching Golden Lions Band

The St. Pius X Marching Golden Lions Band competed in the West Forsyth Wolverine Classic Contest on Saturday, October 27 and placed 1st not only in class AAA, but was also named the Silver Division champion (band classes A, AA, and AAA). The Pius Band had a total score of 90.25 points.

Other Awards included Best in Class AAA Drum Major and Flag Line, and 2nd place in Percussion. Chad Paetznick, Director of Bands at St. Pius and IHM, commented "It was the best band performance the St. Pius Band has ever done. Honest!"

IHM graduates in the winds and percussion section include **Gabe Banks '12**, **Mikayla Burg '10**, **Matteo DeLurgio '12**, **Martinique Edwards '10**, **Eyoel Endashaw '12**, **Madeleine Grace '11**, **Kevin Gross '09**, **Cole Harrington '11**, **Daileen Landestoy '11**, **Karina Mandock '09**, **Armando Osorio '09**, **Amanda Pharo '12**, **Julie Robinson '11**, **Kyle Ryker '11**, **Craig Schwartz '11**, **Noelle Tolliver '11**, and **Matthew Upton '10**. IHM graduates in the Flag Line include **Emily Harris '10**, **Katie Hoffman '09**, and **Anika Snyder '09**.

Carpe Diem Volume XXII: St. Pius's Literary and Arts Magazine

A number of IHM graduates were included in the 2012 edition of Carpe Diem entitled "Crossing Paths." A few selections from the publication are included below. Other contributors include: **Cameron Cassan '08, Rebecca Ponce de Leon '08, Jeannette Warren '08, Rose Cahill '09, Grayson Holt '09, Frank Martin '09, Rachel Ponce de Leon '09, Alex Young '09, Emily Harris '10, Emily Krause '10 and Paige Vega '10.**

The Silence

By Emily Harris '10

I walk through the woods
Listening to the sounds of animals and insects
Hearing the wind rustle through the trees.
And then, all becomes silent
And I know
Something important is about to happen.
I lean over to my friend and say,
"Shh! Hear that?"
"I didn't hear anything," she'll reply.
My response: Exactly.
It was the pause before the moment,
The breath before the speech,
The wait before the action.
And while I wait,
I feel the silence.

Sun Queen

Rachel Ponce de Leon '09

I reached over to turn off the lamp
that towers over my bedside, weary from the work
students do, and the sun
on the tapestry across the room
hung motionless over a black sky, a
smile in her closed eyes.
So she hangs, day after day, seeming to me
all-knowing and ever-smiling,
a guardian over my blue and incense-reeking haven.
But
when the lamp clicks off at 4 each night
she is gone, and so I turn my eyes inward and dream.
Of people, of places,
of fears, of freedoms,
of my own shallow shortcomings
and awake that afternoon
to a peeled-peach sun
with the knowledge of a mother and an
everlasting smile.

Alumni Updates

Sydney Baldonado '99 married Jimmy Smart on October 6 at Saint David's Episcopal Church in Roswell Georgia. The couple honeymooned in Cancun for a week before returning to Roswell where they currently reside. The couple met through mutual friends while playing flag football in the Atlanta Catholic Sport League. Bob Baldonado, Sydney's father, is IHM's Assistant Principal.



*Jimmy Smart and **Sydney Baldonado '99***



*(L to R) **Tyler Baldonado '02**, former **IHM kindergarten teacher Susan Smith**, **Sydney Baldonado '99** and **Bo Baldonado '06***

Rebecca Holmes '02 married Will DuPree on November 9 at Holy Cross. Her sister **Emily Holmes '04** was the Maid of Honor and her brother **Ryan Holmes '08** was a groomsman. Rebecca's mother, **Laura Holmes '75**, attended IHM and is a first grade teacher for the school.



Alex Romero '03 married Blair Welch on November 17 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Alex's sisters, **Veronica Romero '06** and **Aliana Romero '07**, were bridesmaids and four of the groomsmen graduated from St. Pius with Alex. Alex's mother, Ileana Romero, works in IHM School's Library.



Heather Hager '04 graduated from Georgia State University in May of 2012 with Honors and a degree in Political Science. She is currently living in Utrecht, Netherlands and working on a Master's degree in Social Policy at Utrecht University. She became engaged at Sanibel Island this July to Pim Luth of Njimegen, Netherlands. Heather's mother Liz Hager is the Grade 3-5 Classroom Assistant at IHM.

The 16th-ranked Emory University women's soccer team finished second at the 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship, following a hard-fought 1-0 loss to top-ranked Messiah College on December 1 in San Antonio, TX. Junior forward **Veronica Romero '06** plays for the Eagles and was chosen as University Athletic Association's (UAA) Offensive Athlete of the Week for Women's Soccer the week of September 23 following her two-goal, three-assist performance over two games that weekend. She was also placed on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer All-South Atlantic Region Team, claiming a spot on the third team.



Drew Morgan '08 is a member of the Rutgers men's soccer team, which was recently named a recipient of the 2012 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) College Team Academic Awards. Earning the academic team award from the NSCAA for the second consecutive year, the Scarlet Knights posted a 3.00 team grade point average for the 2011-12 academic year. Drew's performance on defense was highlighted in an article this fall. [Click Here](#) to read the full article.

Rebecca Ponce de Leon '08 was awarded the National AP scholar award for averaging 4.7 out of a possible 5 on her AP exams. A total of 78 IHM graduates made Principal's List, Dean's List or Honor Roll for the second semester of the 2011-2012 school year.

The National Merit Scholarship Program provides opportunities for scholarships to outstanding students throughout the country who succeed in their studies and perform with excellence on the PSAT examination. Three St. Pius X students from the **IHM Class of 2009** were selected for the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Competition as Semifinalists: **Mary Hildreth, Claire Homrich, and Keefe Osment**. In addition, three Semifinalists from the **IHM Class of 2009** were named for the National Hispanic Scholarship Program: **Jessica Aponte, Alicia Guyton** and **Emilia Suarez**. Finalists for these scholarships will be announced later in the school year.



*Pictured above are Seniors from the St. Pius Class of 2013 who graduated from **IHM** in **2009**.*

Alexandra Howard '11, a sophomore at St. Pius X, has been selected for induction into the National Honor Society this fall. She also was selected as a member of the Varsity Dance Team, which performs at all SPX Varsity home basketball games.

Kate Nowak '11 was selected for membership in The National Society of High School Scholars.

Prayer Requests

Please keep **Carina Jimenez '13** in your prayers. Carina underwent a liver transplant on November 18 and has suffered from several complications following surgery. Pray for God's mercy and love as Carina heals. Carina's mother, Anna Jimenez, is IHM's Curriculum Director.

Do you have a particular pastoral need? Visit the church's bilingual website at www.ihmatlanta.org. Would you like to be added to the School Prayer List? Send your request to Melissa Petersen at pmabpetersen@bellsouth.net if you would like to place someone on our prayer list.

Obituary

Eleanor O'Connor, mother of **Chris O'Connor '67**, **Mary Ellen O'Connor Van Horn '68**, **Patrick O'Connor '70**, Tom O'Connor and **Mary Beth O'Connor Baker '79**, passed away on November 9, 2012. Her obituary can be found at this [Link](#).

A Remembrance of Mrs. Eleanor O'Connor

By Geraldine Tracy, '79

Mary Beth O'Connor, Mrs. O'Connor's daughter, was in my class and was one of my best friends at IHM. I knew Mrs. O'Connor well. She was kind, loving and generous to all who knew her. I recall spending summer days going with Beth and Mrs. O'Connor to the first St. Vincent De Paul center where we helped organize donated items for those who could not afford much. She showed me what community service meant and how to give of yourself to benefit our own faith based organization.

Mr. O'Connor is a wonderful man who is hard working and loving. He would take us sailing on their boat at Lake Lanier and you could see his love for the water. I so appreciated being included.

Mary Beth was a great friend to me and some of my best childhood memories were of her and her wonderful family. It was so hard when her brother Bill was taken home to God in 1976; what a wonderful soul he had. I still think of him.

Mary Beth and her siblings Tom, Pat, Chris and Mary Ellen are all great examples of Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor's love for one another. Mrs. O'Connor was a great lady who will be missed. I just want to thank her for always making me feel welcome in her home and for being such a great friend to my Mom and our family. May she rest in peace.

Stay Informed - Stay Connected

Stay connected with former classmates by "Liking" us on Facebook at

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

Keep up with current school news at [IHM School Facebook](#) and www.ihmschool.org.

We love to get news from our graduates. If you have news to share contact Jennifer Sedlack at jsedlack@ihmschool.org.



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