year in review

ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

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INSTITUTE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
UNITED STATES REGION

Blessed be God,
who lives forever

Letter from Development

Greetings Faithful Friends and Donors,

Our IBVM Development team, ministry leaders and Sisters are profoundly grateful for this past year of service and generosity from those supporting our ministries and driving our efforts forward. “Blessed be God who lives forever! So now consider what he has done for you, and praise him with full voice.”

What has God done through all of us working together for the healing of the world and the building of God’s home on earth?

In Texas, at the border of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, the joy of being sheltered safely, of being known personally, of being fed both the food and information to move forward is the action of God working through the hands of Sr. Christa and the many sisters of different religious communities working there. We are able to make donations of gift cards, shoelaces, medical supplies and other items as needed, because of you.

On the South Side of Chicago, Mary Ward Center has been busy reconfiguring schedules and courses according to the needs of immigrants, building self-esteem, teaching English, helping students develop computer skills and supporting GED and citizenship efforts from start to finish. We know we cannot all be there, but we, together, are keeping this Center alive and well! Thank you for your generosity as conduits of God’s love to so many.

Your gifts also support our IBVM Sisters. Their ministries include sewing for Mercy Circle, knitting for homeless or near-homeless people, presence for those who need companionship and prayer, a variety of efforts for caring for our planet, visiting the sick, and praying for all who need prayers. You contribute to their care, allowing good health for the Sisters to continue.

Thank you for your great magnanimity throughout the year. Whether through large or small amounts, bequests, tributes, memorials or celebrations, you have been the hands, voice and assurance of God for so many.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mary Carton, IBVM

Mary Carton
US IBVM Leadership Team

Judy Illig, IBVM

Judy Illig
US IBVM Leadership Team

Sr. Helen Timothy, IBVM

Helen Timothy
US IBVM Leadership Team

Left: Arnie, Sr. Maria Bierer, Sr. Jean Frye and Maribeth Evens participate in IBVM Golf Outing
Middle: Arnie (holding photo with Sr. Maria and Sr. Jean), Anne Hyzy, Julie Stapleton and Claire Vandborg
Right: Arnie showcases railroad model with friend, Howard Seller

IBVM Spotlight: Arnie Rathmann

by: Julie Stapleton, IBVM & Anne Hyzy, IBVM

As Arnie Rathmann tells it, as a child back in the '50s, he was brought face-to-face with the Sisters and convent his Aunt Fran joined. His Aunt Fran was Mother Maria Regina Bierer, IBVM, who was then living at the Loretto Wheaton Convent. He remembers the long drive from the city on visiting Sundays, the sighting of the red bricks of the house and Chapel from Butterfield Road and the foreboding St. Michael statue inside the main entrance. This is how Arnie's long-standing, supportive friendship with the IBVMs began.

A couple decades later, his Aunt Fran, having been assigned to the convent at St. Philomene's in Sacramento, CA, persuaded her nephew, Arnie, to travel to Sacramento. This he did. But after that, persuasion was no longer needed for him to visit.

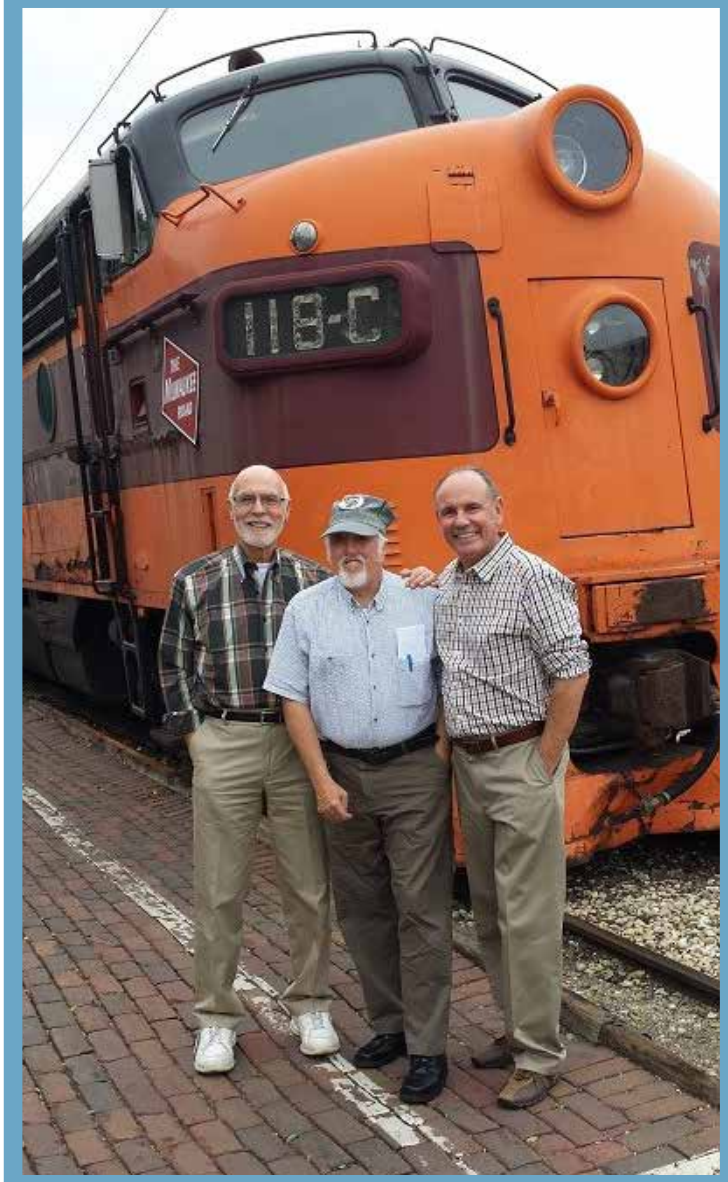
Meeting the large group of IBVMs serving there over those years, Arnie made life-long friends and even acquired "a sister" he never had with Sr. Jean Frye. It was for Loretto H.S. yearly plays, directed by Sr. Maria Regina, that Arnie filled many roles in preparation for the play and during the performances. An electrician by trade and an experienced scenery and prop enthusiast, he stepped in to assist Sr. Jean where his gifts were needed for the yearly productions.

When the Loretto Galas began in the '90s on the beautiful grounds of the Wheaton Convent, Arnie brought his electrician comrades from his workplace to wire the lighting and sound systems for, first one tent, then two, then several more, as the Gala's patrons grew over the years.

Arnie has so many varied friends, true friends, people he regularly visits, dines with and talks with frequently. As he says, most of these treasured friends he met through his Aunt. Arnie seems to be a magnet for people: his experience, knowledge and interests enrich their conversations. He is an airplane pilot, an electrician, train aficionado, a Chicago loop enthusiast, a dog lover and a Door County expert - to name some of his delights. We, members of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, benefit in so many ways from Arnie's being a companion of ours (an unofficial Companion). At the Mary Ward House, where Maria lived and died, he repairs, re-wires and installs lighting in the garage, and

strings our Christmas lights outside. A list is made and when he visits, he checks off each item needing fixing. Then, we partake in the wonders of conversation while enjoying our dinner.

Arnie has worn many hats (he happens to have a veritable collection of them) in his relationship with the IBVMs, but the biggest hat of all, and it is not an imaginary hat, is the hat of friendship!



Above: Howard Seller, Arnie and Rod Stephens

making an IMPACT

"Arnie Rathmann is one of the most selfless, generous, conscientious men I have ever known. The value of friendship, that developed from all those years of working Loretto Galas with Arnie, cannot be measured. His continued dedication to the Sisters and what they stand for is inspiring."

- Andy Wells, IBVM Property Manager

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVENUES*

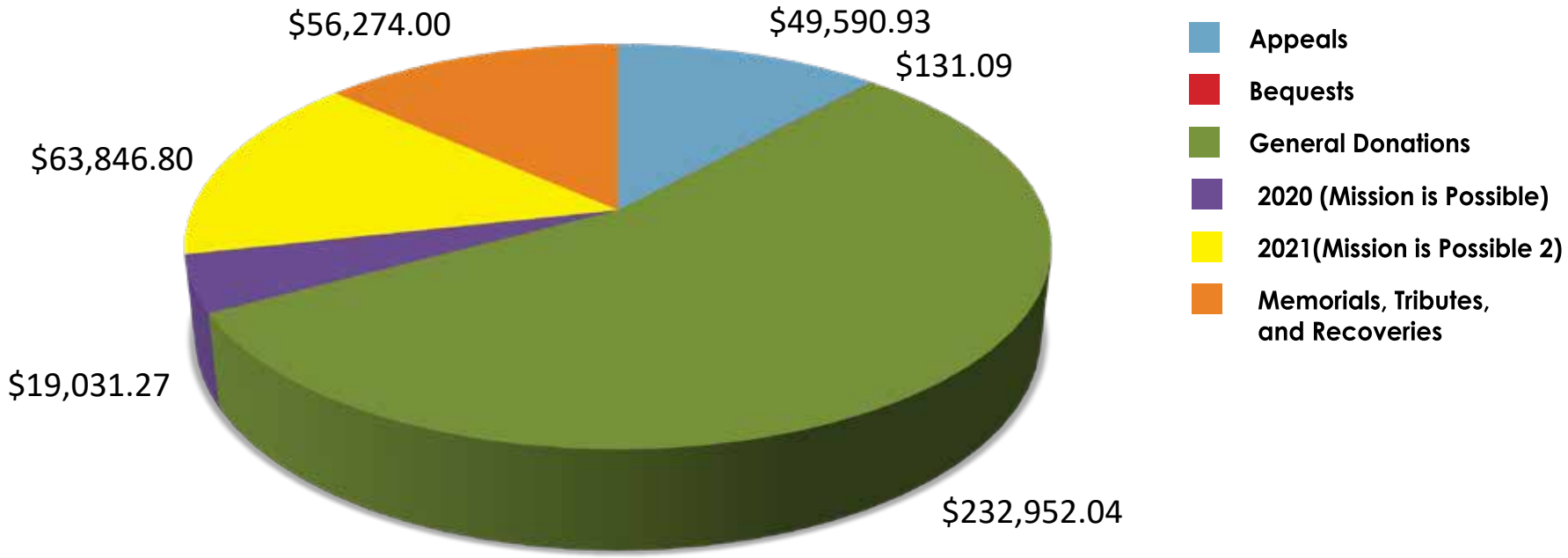
September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

The Office of Development is a part of the Administration of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, religious corporation, chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois. The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary is listed in the Official Catholic Directory and is thus federally tax-exempt [501(c)(3)].

Appeals	**$49,590.93**
Bequests	**$131.09**
General Donations	**$232,952.04**
2020 (Mission is Possible)	**$19,031.27**
2021 (Mission is Possible 2)	**$63,846.80**
Memorials, Tributes, and Recoveries	**$56,274.00**
Total	**$421,826.13**

Where the need is greatest	**$268,031.31**
Care of the retired and infirm sisters	**$116,217.73**
Ministries	**$37,577.09**
Total	**$421,826.13**

**Unaudited figures*



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Your generosity makes possible our religious lives and missions. We rely completely on God's providence, through the financial support of our benefactors. Your contribution helps to provide for the needs of our Sisters, as well as the needs of our ministries.

Donating online is quick, easy, secure and available 24/7. It also supports IBVM "eco-friendly, paperless" efforts. We thank you for your kindness!

Visit **ibvm.us/Support-Us/Make-A-Gift** to donate.

donate
TODAY

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The contributions of those whose names appear on these pages have truly made our mission their own. During these uncertain times, your kindness, friendship and prayers have allowed us to continue our efforts to care for our Sisters and further the ministries of IBVM.

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Mary Ward Center (MWC) team showcases cleaning supplies used in building Covid preventative measures, made possible from your support. Pictured: Amy Gorman (ESL teacher), Pam Smith (MWC staff, Companion, ESL teacher and volunteer), Marianne Solorio (MWC Director), and Concepcion Rosas (MWC staff)

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- Sister Judy Illig, IBVM

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