Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Office of IHM Mission Advancement
230 IHM Drive + Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355

...our mission: to evangelize, to catechize, to teach



Karen Creely has spent much of her career telling stories—and figuring out who needs to hear them. For 30 years, she has worked in communications, public relations, and media, with a career that has taken her from WBEB/B101 Radio and Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre to public relations agency work, higher education and, ultimately, the IHM Sisters.

Karen joined the IHM Sisters as Director of Communications in March 2017 and will mark ten years in the role this spring. Her work touches nearly every corner of the congregation—from publications, media relations, and internal communications to maintaining the congregation's websites and finding ways to share the IHM story with a variety of audiences. One simple question often guides her work: “Who else needs to know?” For Karen, effective communication is not simply about putting information out into the world. It is about recognizing a story worth telling, understanding who might care about it, and finding the best way to bring the two together. She especially values the opportunity to help people get to know the sisters, their ministries, their history, their personalities, and the many ways they continue to serve today. As communication has become increasingly digital, Karen sees the IHM website as more than a place to look something up; it is another way for people to discover the sisters and the stories behind the IHM mission.

The IHM Sisters have become an important part of Karen's own story, too. During her years with the congregation, she met her husband, Randy, at work—an unexpected benefit that definitely wasn't included in the original job description! At home, Karen and Randy share life with Reba, their chocolate Lab, whose adventures have provided Karen with an entirely different kind of storytelling material. In fact, many of the sisters have become a familiar audience for Karen's “Reba stories”—proof that whether it is the work of the Congregation or the latest tale from home, there is usually a story worth sharing.