



Discerning Vocations in the Diocese of Saginaw

Interview with Sr. Maria Inviolata Honma, SMDG

Raised in a devout Catholic family, Sr. Maria Inviolata Honma grew up in a home that prioritized making Christ the center of each day. She and her family attended Mass regularly and said the rosary daily. Her Catholic faith was further strengthened by her attendance at a Catholic high school where, during her senior retreat, she began to open her heart to the possibility that God may be calling her to religious life.

“I didn’t originally consider becoming a sister,” Sr. Maria recounted. “At first I didn’t feel like I fit into any of the vocations.” However, during her retreat Sr. Maria recalled experiencing an overwhelming feeling of being loved that stayed with her for several days. This feeling - which Sr. Maria compares to the magical emotion of falling in love - was her initial glimpse into complete abandonment to God’s will. “Whenever I had a doubt, I remembered that feeling of being overwhelmingly loved,” she said.

Sr. Maria originally began her formal discernment process in Washington state. Later she transitioned to the Sisters of Our Mother of Divine Grace, an order of religious sisters established in the Diocese of Saginaw by Bishop Joseph Cistone in 2010. After three years of discernment in Washington, Michigan, and Italy, Sr. Maria made her final vows in Rome the same year the Sisters of Our Mother of Divine Grace was established.

“
Don't underestimate the
value of spending time with
Jesus in the Blessed
Sacrament. That time is
transformative: for you and
for those you love and for
the entire world.
”

Sr. Maria Inviolata Honma, SMDG

Now, Sr. Maria serves as the Director of Parish Life at Ave Maria Parish in Lexington, MI, a parish which holds six endowments with the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan. Sr. Maria first encountered the CCFMM in 2011 and went on to serve 3 years on their Board of Trustees, admiring the “dedicated behind-the-scenes labor-of-love work that it takes to honor the wishes of donors and make as much funding as possible available efficiently, effectively and easily to parishes, organizations and individuals.”

Sr. Maria’s commitment to living as witness to her faith and her own calling to religious life is evident. Her order works to promote discernment in the local community through family vocation camps and Catholic school presentations focused on religious life. “**The most important thing is to pray for vocations,**” Sr. Maria states. “Sometimes a good thing is worth the risk.”

Catholic High School & College Scholarship Window Opening October 1, 2024!

The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan offers 56 scholarships available to students currently attending, or who have previously attended, any school within the Diocese of Saginaw. Scholarship funds can be used for a variety of expenses such as tuition, school supplies, or costs associated with attending a college or university.

Last year, the CCFMM disbursed over \$35,000 to 15 Catholic school students, and over \$56,000 to 28 students pursuing higher education.

The 2025-2026 scholarship window opens on October 1, 2024, and applications are due January 6, 2025. Visit CCFMM.org to learn more about available scholarship funding.

High school & college scholarships are available to current or former students of any school within the Diocese of Saginaw!



Scan the QR code to learn more or apply!

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

tropical
SMOOTHIE
CAFE®

*Thank you to our generous sponsors,
David and Ruth Buko!
Be sure to visit their Cafe at
5620 State St. Saginaw, MI 48609*

**We apologize for our previous misspelling of David and Ruth's last name in our last publication - we are so grateful for their ongoing support of our mission!*

Creating a Legacy of Faith

If you have ever considered leaving a legacy that will perpetuate the Catholic mission and work of Catholic organizations, creating a new fund or donating to an established fund may be right for you.

Establishing a fund with us is easy, and we work with you at every step. Visit CCFMM.org or contact **Kristin Smith, Executive Director**, at Kristin.Smith@ccfmm.org to get started.