

*Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*  
*Our Lady Circle*  
*Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355*

January 8, 2019

Msgr. Seamus F. Brennan  
Immaculate Conception Church  
35 Mountain Avenue  
Somerville, PA 08876

Dear Msgr. Brennan,

The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary extend greetings for blessings and peace to all who are a part of Immaculate Conception Parish!

I appreciate your meeting with Sister Stephen Anne and me in December. The purpose of the meeting was to convey our decision to withdraw from Immaculata Faculty House as of June 2019. The essential reason for our leaving is because we have too few Sisters for our many commitments. To continue our mission requires our limiting the number of convents and schools in which we are stationed. In this way, we hope to stabilize our Sister personnel, not only to adjust our present numbers, but also to strengthen our apostolic presence and provide quality community life for our Sisters.

There are, of course, many reasons why we are reluctant to leave Immaculata High School, Immaculate Conception School and Immaculata Faculty House. It has been a blessing for us to have lived within the parish for the past 61 years. The Sisters who have been missioned at Immaculate Conception and Immaculata High School, as well as the entire Congregation, have been nourished and enriched by their association with the parishioners, parents, children, teachers and staff. We hold in memory the priests of the parish—present and former—who have faithfully supported and provided for us spiritually and materially. To all of these, we express our thanks.

May I acknowledge with pride and much gratitude the services of Sisters Virginia Quinn, Mary Catherine Chapman, Regina Karen McNeill, Dolores Margaret Murray, Mary Ann Besitka, Lorraine Marie DeArros, Theresa John Talbot, and Ruth Bolarte who are currently missioned at Immaculata Faculty House. The Sisters' zeal and generosity is a cherished blessing for our IHM Congregation. We know that their hearts are saddened by our withdrawal from the convent.

Finally, we thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us and the people of Immaculata High School and Immaculate Conception School and Parish. We place you and all the people of Immaculata High School and Immaculate Conception School under the patronage of our Blessed Mother and promise our prayers.

Sincerely, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

*Sister Mary Ellen Tennity IHM*

Sister Mary Ellen Tennity, IHM  
General Superior  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary