



## **With Gratitude and a New Call: A Letter to the AHN Community**

*By Sister Lisa M. Perkowski, IHM*

*"The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." – John 3:8*

Last week, as my congregation gathered for our Chapter of Affairs and Elections, the Holy Spirit was very much present—in the unity of our decisions and the courage to make new choices at a time when many congregations, including my own, are increasingly vulnerable in their aged membership. Praying with the Easter readings, especially this passage from John's Gospel, I found myself asking for the grace to be suspended in the movement of the Spirit as our community discerned a new slate of leaders.

I share with you that I have been elected to serve on our next congregational leadership team as a council member. Consequently, I must let go of my position here at the close of this school year. If you would like to learn more about what this role entails within our congregation, I invite you to visit <https://www.sistersofihm.org/about/leadership/>.

Serving here for the past fourteen years has been an inexplicable gift. The talent, intellect, generosity, and most of all, the charism of this community—represented in each of you—is truly special. Especially in these recent years following our past SNJM Sisters, I have felt entrusted with the charism. Now, I entrust it to you: to continue to engage those core values—and all they stand for in upholding the dignity of the human person and care for creation—in your classrooms, your curriculum, and your daily decisions.

The Easter season reminds us not to cling to our gifts, but to hold them with open hands, trusting that the Holy Spirit will continue to transform them in ways beyond our knowing.

You—colleagues, students, alumni, and parents, past and present—fill a deep well in my heart. The tremendous sadness I feel saying goodbye comes from having loved so much.

My deep hope in taking this audacious step of faith is that my relationship with the Academy of the Holy Names will continue in new ways. Working more closely with my sisters and collaborating with women religious and lay leaders nationally and globally, I trust what I learn in this new dimension of servant leadership may one day be returned as a gift for our shared mission in the Church and the world.

There will be a formal installation Mass for the newly elected on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 11 am in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel, IHM Center, Scranton, PA. I invite you to join us in prayer and celebration.

Blessed be the Names of Jesus and Mary—now and forever,

Sister Lisa M. Perkowski, IHM