



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**Main Campus**

1555 South Raisinville Road  
Monroe, MI 48161-9746

**Whitman Center**

7777 Lewis Avenue  
Temperance, MI 48182

[www.monroeccc.edu](http://www.monroeccc.edu)

Contact:  
Joe Verkennes,  
Director of Marketing,  
(734) 384-4207

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IHM, MCCC TO PRESENT**  
**SCREENING OF ‘BAND OF SISTERS’**

*Significant Part of Documentary Shot in Monroe,  
Features Numerous IHM Sisters*

MONROE, Mich. – The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in conjunction with Monroe County Community College, will present a screening of the film “Band of Sisters,” a documentary produced in Chicago that features a significant amount of footage shot at the IMH Motherhouse in Monroe, as well as numerous IHM sisters.

The film screening will be held in the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater on Friday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.

“Band of Sisters” follows the journey of Catholic sisters in the U.S. from sheltered “daughters of the church” to citizens of the world. In Band of Sisters, two nuns advocate for the rights of immigrant detainees and deportees in and around a Chicago-area deportation center. It is 50 years since Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council to let a little fresh air into the church, and most Catholic nuns in the U.S. have never looked back.

In the film, scenes of convent life prior to Vatican II contrast with those of nuns in the tumultuous and exciting years after the Council, when sisters became engaged with the great

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social movements of our day.

Illuminating the path from direct service to social justice to the transformation of consciousness, Band of Sisters travels with nuns who continue their mission as organic farmers, environmental attorneys, peace activists, holistic health care practitioners, podcasters and more.

According to a news release provided by the film's director and producer, Mary Fishman, "In the face of obstacles and threats cast by government agencies, the military and the hierarchy of their own church, the forward-thinking U.S. nuns are on a mission of love, and it appears that nothing can stop them. A film that shows the sisters as they are, Band of Sisters is a deeply moving story of inspiration and hope for people of all faiths."

IHM Sisters Nancy Sylvester, Margaret Brennan, Maxine Kollasch and Julie Vieira all have feature roles in the documentary. Other sisters featured in the film include Carol Coston, Elise Garcia and Pat Siemen, Adrian Dominicans; Kathleen Desautels, Sisters of Providence, Madeline Gianforte, Sisters of St. Agnes; Margaret Galiardi, Amityville Dominicans; Yolanda Tarango, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word; Pat Murphy, JoAnn Persch, Lillian Murphy and Theresa Kane, Sisters of Mercy; Miriam Therese MacGillis, Caldwell Dominicans, and Patricia Chappell, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Fishman was educated by the Springfield Dominican Sisters in elementary school and the Sisters of Mercy in high school. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, she led a career as an architect and urban planner, including 10 years with the City of Chicago's planning and building departments, before switching to filmmaking. She began work on Band of Sisters in 2004.

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Band of Sisters was edited by Bernadine Colish, a New York-based editor. The score was composed and recorded by Miriam Cutler of Los Angeles.

Major funding for the film was provided by the Sisters of Mercy Agatha O'Brien Ministry Fund. Additional funding came from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois General Assembly; a West Midwest Mercy Ministry Grant; the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Ministry Fund; a Community Arts Assistance Program grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; 40 women's congregations; and close to 600 generous individual donors.

Band of Sisters was completed in May 2012 and is 88 minutes long. For more information please visit <http://bandofsistersmovie.com>.

Tickets are \$8 for reserved seating and can be purchased at the MCCC Cashier's Office in the Warrick Student Services/Administration Building, or via phone by calling the MCCC Ticket Hotline at (734) 384-4272. If available, tickets can also be purchased at the door.

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