ILT names new advancement officer
Colleen Maher, currently the director of development, Pennsylvania, for the Mid-Atlantic, was recently appointed the first advancement officer for the Institute.

“Noelle brings 28 years of experience in development roles,” says Ruth Thomas, the Institute’s chief operating officer. “But most impressive to all during the interview process was her passion for the mission of Mercy and clear articulation of a strategic, mission-focused vision for Institute advancement.”

As project coordinator for the design phase for the mission advancement team, Colleen led the initial planning and then served as a member of the development team. For the past 23 years, she has been responsible for fundraising activities for the former Merion regional community and in the Mid-Atlantic Community for Pennsylvania.

Formerly a corporate attorney in the banking/bankruptcy practice of Drinker Biddle & Reath in Philadelphia, Colleen also worked in corporate and foundation roles with the New Jersey State Aquarium, the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

She has an undergraduate degree in foreign service from Georgetown University and a law degree from Boston College, where she met Joe, her husband of 28 years. A mother of three children, Colleen grew up in Arizona and is proficient in Spanish.

“My hope is to work with leadership, the development staff and other Institute departments to implement the Journey of Oneness,” says Colleen. “Together we can create an Institute-wide program for development that integrates the different communities and the Institute office into a network of collaboration and cooperation that positions the Sisters of Mercy’s advancement efforts to move successfully into the future.”
Colleen will start her new position on February 1, 2020. Her orientation schedule will include visits with leaders and staff across the Institute early next year. Initially she will divide her time between the Silver Spring and Mid-Atlantic offices until relocating to Silver Spring in September, 2020.

A political junkie, she looks forward to living in the D.C. area during an election year.