



Sister Mary Ann Bredice is the oldest of two. She and her younger brother grew up in Ionia, Mich., with loving parents, who she describes as being a great couple. Her mother made the rules and her father was very gentle.

Although her father was Catholic, her mother was not. Sister Mary Ann attended public schools and was not raised in the Church. At age 16, on July 5, 1963, she, her brother, mother, uncle, aunt and step-grandmother were all baptized; on the next day, they made their First Communion; and her parents and grandparents renewed their marriage vows in the Church.

Sister Mary Ann finished her last two years of school at SS. Peter and Paul Academy High School, where she was taught by the IHM Sisters. She recognized the individualism in her teachers and saw that they were very dedicated and caring teachers. With her parents' support, she joined the congregation after high school graduation.

"This life is so Gospel-centered," she says. "I don't think I really would have been happy in any other kind of lifestyle or career." She set out on her first mission to teach at Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) School in Minnetonka, Minn., where she taught fourth through sixth grades for seven years. During that time, she completed her master's degree at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, and then became the principal at IHM for eight years. The faculty members at the school were very creative. They were also committed to coming together regularly for prayer and faith-sharing.

Sister Mary Ann then took a year's sabbatical in Dayton, Ohio, where she fixed up an old farmhouse, gardened and canned tomatoes, etc. She remained in Dayton for the next 21 years, teaching fourth grade at Precious Blood School for a year, and then ministering as principal at Our Lady of Mercy School for five years before teaching junior high at Immaculate Conception and later becoming principal. She then taught junior high at Mary Queen of Peace.

Sister Mary Ann left Dayton and gave up teaching to care for her elderly mother. During that time, she also cared for other people living in her apartment complex.





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She returned to Monroe to be part of the 2012-2018 Leadership Council and her mother came to live on the skilled care unit at the Motherhouse. Sister Mary Ann is very active as a Mission Councilor.

Her greatest joy has been meeting wonderful people and meeting more of the sisters since she has come back to Monroe. She is most grateful to the congregation for “journeying with me as I grow up.”

Sister Mary Ann is very grateful to the community for recognizing her gifts and giving her the courage to take the next steps on her journey.