

IHM Sisters - Then and Now

February 2009



Sister Electa (Mary Simon) Herringer entered the IHM congregation in 1938. She began teaching elementary school in 1940 in Detroit and ministered for the next 30 years in Mt. Clemens, Harbor Beach, Marine City, Warren, Monroe, Southfield, Mt. Morris, Flint and Battle Creek, Mich.

She grew up in Flint, Mich., the eldest in a family of six children. Sister Electa and her sister Catherine (Romilda) joined the IHM congregation together and the two were very close. In 1975 Catherine was killed by a hit-and-run driver.

Sister Electa served as a primary teacher for most of her ministry. She loved little children and loved teaching them. She recalls having 90 students in her

first class of first-graders.

After falling and breaking her hip in 1971, Sister Electa spent the next several years working in the school office, helping out wherever needed with calling parents of absent students, banking, mailings and all the many tasks necessary to run a school office efficiently.

She received an award from St. Philip Alumni Association in 1999 and was made an honorary alumnus in 2001. Sister Electa stayed in Battle Creek until 2006, when she moved to the IHM Motherhouse.

As a novice, Sister Electa was a gifted seamstress and was given charge of Mother Leocadia's clothes. Now, in her retirement, she uses her creative talents to knit dolls for children with AIDS in Africa.

She recalls seeing so much change over the years. "Growing up, our family said the rosary every night. Nowadays, parents have much less control of their kids than my parents had," she says. "I'm grateful we went to Catholic school. The public school doesn't teach values."

