

Mary Catherine Quick, IHM Then & Now - April 2012



Sister Mary Catherine was born in Detroit in 1938. She has an older brother, Richard, and a younger sister, Nancy. When she was 7 years old, her family bought a farm and moved to Emmet, Mich. Her father was a full-time farmer; when Nancy started school her mother returned to teaching school.

Sister Mary Catherine attended Mount Carmel School from grades two through 10 and graduated from St. Stephen High School in 1956. She traveled to the Motherhouse in Monroe one summer to help Sister Rosalee Owens, who was her homeroom teacher in the 12th grade. While at the Motherhouse, she discussed her desire to become an IHM Sister. Two months later she joined.

Her teaching assignments in Michigan were at St. Joseph in Erie; St. John/Lake Michigan Catholic Junior High in Benton Harbor; Sacred Heart Elementary in Dearborn; Redford Union Community Education Center in Redford; and Our Lady Queen of Peace School in Harper Woods. She also taught at St. Felicitas in Chicago. She was principal at Resurrection Elementary in Lansing; administrator/religious education at Immaculate Conception School in Saginaw, Mich.; and administrator at St. Hilary School in Redford, Mich.

“I loved being a principal and working with the teachers,” Sister Mary Catherine said. “That was a wonderful thing, to be able to pull the teachers together and to create Christian community among the faculty of the school where I was. But I’m not political and that got me into trouble a few times.”

In 1994 she attended Lansing Community College and earned a degree in media. In 1996 she worked as a video technician/media consultant in Lansing. After obtaining her degree in media, she worked for a company that recorded dance recitals, rehearsals and hockey games for individual participants. They then created “resumes” from them.

A few years later she ministered as a computer teacher at Our Lady Queen of Peace School in Harper Woods. “I was a technophile. I loved working with machines,” Sister Mary Catherine said. “At school, I was the first one to set up the media projector. That’s what I loved doing.”

In 2004 Sister Mary Catherine began a period of volunteer work. She assisted in the closing of Marygrove Convent, volunteered as a tutor at Dominican Literacy Center in Detroit, teaching adult students reading and English, and as an AmeriCorp volunteer.



Sister Mary Catherine (right) with siblings, Nancy and Richard.



In 2007, the IHM Sisters started Compassionate Companions in Monroe County. Sister Mary Catherine and six other IHMs became guardians to about 70 wards of the Monroe County Probate Court. Guardians are court-appointed to advocate and manage the affairs of persons judged legally incapacitated. This new ministry has grown and now has an office in Warren that serves Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

Nowadays, she helps out with video recording events at the Motherhouse. She's also working with the IHM Archives to transfer media from tape to DVD.

She enjoys travelling. She hopes one day to take a trip to see the Grand Canyon.

“It’s been a beautiful life! I am so grateful to the IHM community for everything – for all it’s done for me,” she exclaimed. “I think this is the most beautiful thing: I have spent my entire adult life in an organization totally owned, operated, administered and managed by women!”



Sister Mary Catherine (far right) with family and friends on a trip to Ireland and England to celebrate her 50th Jubilee.



Sister Mary Catherine (far left) in front of Stonehenge in England.