



Sister Beth Wood grew up in Detroit and attended St. Brigid Elementary School along with her brothers. The Dominican Sisters were their teachers.

Beth can point to many examples of the Spirit at work on her behalf, including her first day of school at Immaculata. “My parents had registered me, but I was on a waiting list. I set off on the first day of school, tuition in my pocket. In the office a sister noticed me, asked me my name. A girl who had registered had just called

but couldn’t come, so I could take her place!”

In her junior year, Sister Beth’s class was completing a retreat and Sister Maria suggested the girls try very hard to give their full attention to the retreat priest. At dismissal Sister Maria said, “I noticed you sat very still during the conference.” For the first time out loud, she said, “I think I want to be a sister!”

Sister Beth joined the IHM community without much preparation and no set date to come. “Deadline date for entrance was July 2, 1946. I arrived about 9:30 p.m. and all the sisters were in bed. But I did get in, thanks to a sister dressed in her bathrobe, veil with a flashlight in her hand!”

Sister Beth was sent out on her First Profession Day, Jan. 2, 1949, to St. Boniface, Detroit, to teach fifth grade, then on to Our Lady of Lourdes, River Rouge, Mother of Our Savior, Detroit (56 students, fifth and sixth grades). “Historic event – we began driving to and from school!”

Next: St. Joseph School, Trenton, Mich., then to Immaculate Heart of Mary in Minnetonka, Minn., and back to Michigan to St. Raymond and St. Martin, both in Detroit; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Emmett, where she was teacher and principal for seven years.

In the early ’70s, Claudia Carlen, IHM, suggested the need for a few more librarians to administration. Sister Beth had been teaching for 22 years, and that summer her assignment stated: Library Science at U of M (Ann Arbor).

“Sister Mary Catherine Quick made me aware of a library position at Lake Michigan Catholic High School in St. Joseph, Mich., where I spent six happy years. Then the Holy Spirit, through Sister Joan of Arc, told me of two schools that needed a librarian: St. Mary Academy (SMA) and Immaculata. After a tour of each library and interviews, SMA acknowledged my visit and hoped I would come. This lasted 10 years.

“Finally – ROME! I experienced 10 wonderful years as the librarian at Graduate House of Studies for North American Priests. I attended private papal Masses, Lenten station churches and St. Pope John Paul II blessed us and ushered in the New Year and century, 2000.

Sister Beth has competed in 25 full and half marathons, and her greatest joy has been following the direction of the Holy Spirit. “Our IHM community has been my source of life and love ‘all down the years.’”

Sister Beth is running a half marathon in October and would appreciate prayers.

