



Sister Kay Louise Aerts grew up on a farm in Elbridge Township, Mich., with her two brothers and two sisters. She enjoyed participating in 4-H projects, such as homemaking and raising, training and showing cows and calves.

She graduated from Hart High School and attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. It was her pastor who first introduced Sister Kay Louise to the

IHM Sisters; she joined the community after one year at Aquinas. She earned her bachelor's degree from Marygrove College while doing substitute teaching at IHM schools.

Her first permanent teaching assignment was at St. Anne School in Warren, Mich., teaching sixth grade her first year and for the next three years, teaching math and music to seventh- and eighth-graders. She professed final vows after the end of that school year and was awarded her permanent elementary certification that fall.

From St. Anne, she taught seventh grade math and music at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., while starting work on her master's degree in education at Marygrove. She stayed a year before teaching seventh and eighth grades at St. Charles Borromeo in Detroit; the following year, she taught fifth and sixth grades at St. Charles.

Sister Kay Louise then moved on to East Catholic High School in Detroit, where she taught ninth and 10th grade math. She earned her master's degree in 1970 and her permanent secondary certification the following year.

She began ministering with the Detroit Board of Education Cass Outreach, preparing adults for their GED exams. At the same time, she engaged her love of music by studying voice at Marygrove and music at





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both Henry Ford Community College and Wayne State University. She served as song leader at SS. Simon and Jude.

After a year with Cass Outreach, Sister Kay Louise served as music director at St. Thomas Aquinas in Detroit; she also taught algebra at Henry Ford Community College.

She returned to the Detroit Board of Education, teaching adult education, pre-GED, GED and choral; she also taught algebra and choral at Wayne County Community College. "I also directed a class in singing at the Trinidad Recreation Center and worked for one semester for the Dearborn Board of Education, teaching a GED class," she recalls.

All told, she ministered with the Detroit Board of Ed for nearly 40 years. She retired in 2009. In 1990 she began helping make life better for cats and dogs in her neighborhood in Detroit. Eventually she reached out beyond her neighborhood. Since June of 1910, she has been the director of Fortunate Feline Adoption League. This group is devoted to addressing the issues of cat overpopulation and homelessness.