

Sister Lurana Sankovic's parents emigrated from Europe. Her father went to work in the ore mines in Michigan's Upper Peninsula before working in the auto industry in Detroit. Both parents were very devote and raised their family in a religious home.

Sister Lurana, along with her two older brothers and two older sisters, attended Holy Redeemer School. Taught by IHM Sisters and Redemptorist priests, Sister Lurana never gave any thought that there may be other orders. A conversation with her Holy Redeemer basketball coach sparked her own interest in a religious vocation.



She went to speak with her pastor, who suggested she do something special with her life. Sister Lurana told him she was very stubborn and he told her to use her stubbornness for good. After working two years, she entered the IHM community.

She entered on Sept. 8 with a wonderful group of women. At the end of the day during her postulate and novitiate, Sister Lurana enjoyed playing basketball, the Holy Redeemer team against the IHM Sisters. During the summer, they played baseball. "The evenings found us picking berries, husking corn or putting blinders on turkeys on the community farms," she recalls.

She set out on her ministries to teach first and second grade at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Emmett, Mich. (Three of her students from Emmett are now also members of the IHM community.) After two years, she taught first grade at Annunciation and then at Holy Trinity, both in Detroit. Teaching double grades the next few years, she covered all grades to seventh at St. Raymond (Detroit) and St. Hugo of the Hills (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.).

During this time, Sister Lurana completed her master's degree at Wayne State University. She was reassigned from St. Hugo to St. Michael, Flint, Mich., to teach ninth and 10th grade English and math; second semester, she taught honors English to seniors. Next was Luke Powers High School in Flint, Mich., followed by five years at Holy Redeemer High School, where she taught the children of her former classmates.

After teaching, Sister Lurana went to work at the Kundig Senior Citizen Center in Detroit. With the initial intention of being there just one year, she stayed at the center for 15 years! She returned to the Motherhouse and worked in the therapy department for 11 years before participating in a mission trip to Mexico.

Since retiring, Sister Lurana volunteers in health care, created items for past Christmas sales and takes care of the community's plants. She has a natural green thumb that can make even crumbling plants become vibrant.



Sister Lurana's greatest joy has been being a part of a cohesive group of women in spite of their different upbringing. "I think the community spirit is what binds us together," she says. She is grateful for the opportunities she has had, especially her education, both since being in the community and during her formative years.