



Sister Patricia Aseltyne grew up in a loving family in Detroit. She attended St. Mary of Redford School along with her sister, Sister Ann, IHM, and her two brothers, Art and Bill. Their dad, Arthur, worked at Ford Motor Company all his life and their mom, Kitty (Burke) were able to stay at home to care for the family. Because these were Depression days, money was short but love and deep faith flourished.

School days were challenging but enjoyable as the IHM Sisters who taught Sister Pat were good teachers and friends who joined with the family to nurture her faith.

Entering the IHM community in 1945, right after WWII, brought new challenges. The carefree life of a teenager became one of adjustment to silence, a new style of prayer and following strict orders. At the end of the Novitiate, Sister Pat was happy to be sent out to Gesu School, her first mission where her love for teaching began.

She spent 45 years in formal education: as teacher in Detroit at Gesu, St. Cecilia and St. Rose; in Monroe at St. John, St. Michael and Hall of the Divine Child; Sacred Heart, Dearborn; Sacred Heart, Auburn Heights; St. John, Jackson; and St. Felicitas, Chicago; as principal at Our Lady of Lourdes, River Rouge; St. Philip, Battle Creek; St. Columba, Oxen Hill, Maryland; St. Michael, Monroe; and St. Paul the Apostle, Grand Rapids, Mich. These years were followed by five years as a secretary to those in IHM Leadership. Her summers were spent working with migrants in Emmett, Mich., and in teaching summer school.

In 1994, Sister Pat traveled to Houston to be a foster mother for AIDS babies and other children who needed special care. Her foster child, Rosa, died of AIDS at age 3 ½. Another special foster child still thrives at age 20. These were privileged years for Sister Pat as they strengthened the belief that is in her heart that this life is the dream and heaven the reality.

For 20 years, she continued to bring strength and comfort to the children and to the parents of the children she served. She was sustained by those who worked with her and by her firm belief that God leads us to those people and places where we can best use our gifts. She is now a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in Monroe County (CASA).

Insights gained at the Gate Program in Mexico and during her 30-day retreat with Sister Breta Gorman, RSM, at Our Lady of the Pines in Fremont, Ohio, solidified Sister Pat's desire to do more for those in need.

Sister Pat is most grateful to the people who accepted her into their lives and for sisters who now receive her lovingly into the IHM Motherhouse community in Monroe.

