



Sister Suzanne Sattler, the youngest of four children, grew up in Toledo, Ohio. Her mother was a homemaker, and her father worked three jobs to make ends meet during WWII. After the war, he established an insurance firm and worked out of their home, which fostered a warm relationship with him. When her brother returned from the Navy, he joined their father's business.

She attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through law school. Upon graduation from high school, Sister Sue decided to go to Marygrove College, where she met the IHM Sisters.

It was at Marygrove that she recognized the humanity of the IHM Sisters and decided to apply during her junior year, but she waited a year before entering. Becoming an IHM gave her a sense of doing something purposeful. "I joined in '65 when all the significant reforms of religious life were beginning post Vatican II which allowed me to truly grow to understand and appreciate the real meaning of religious life," she says.

Sister Sue's first ministry was teaching English, world history and U.S. history at Immaculata High School in Detroit for six years; during the last two years, she attended law school at night at the University of Detroit. Significant experiences while at Immaculata shaped her, she began to understand the reality of racism in society; a nephew was killed in the Vietnam War; and she commuted to Toledo on weekends to care for her dying mother.

Upon graduation from law school she was awarded a fellowship to work at Michigan Legal Services and then practiced law at the UAW Legal Services representing Chrysler workers. She was employed at the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, working on nursing home advocacy and health policy and also volunteered on many different community boards.

In the fall of '86, Sister Sue went to Nicaragua with friends and then the next year, to El Salvador. El Salvador was a life-changing trip, where she "saw the Gospel truly alive in the midst of brutal circumstances."

She visited people who had just left refugee camps to return to their bombed out villages. She came back to Detroit and for the next 25 years encouraged others to travel to El Salvador with her to understand and be in solidarity with the people of El Salvador.

Sister Sue thinks of the quote from St. Irenaeus when considering her greatest joy since joining the community: "The joy of God is [man] each of us fully





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alive.” She has come to feel that is more and more true in her life. She is grateful for the encouragement and respect she has received from the community to “help me grow as a woman alive to the many gifts of life.”