

Remembering Sister June Denne, IHM
Sept. 16, 1923 – Sept. 1, 2014



In June's Book of Life, she has this quote from Proverbs 3:6.

**“In all your ways be mindful of God,
and God will make straight your paths.”**

How well June lived that quote from Scripture. She often said, “I am very proud of all the work I have done for the community, and I am very grateful for all that the community has done for me.”

June was born on Sept. 16, 1923, to Clarence and Laura Denne. She was the second youngest of eight children – five boys and three girls – all of whom predeceased June. She often expressed her gratitude for all that their parents did for them during the Depression days. Many times she would comment that no one knew the many sacrifices they made for their children.

June attended St. Gabriel Grade School and Holy Redeemer High School, from which she graduated in June 1941. Shortly after, she told her mother that she wanted to join the IHM community. Her mother's response was that she would prefer that June go to the Adrian Dominicans since then she would be allowed to come home. June, however, felt called to the IHM community. In time, her mother accepted June's decision and brought her to Monroe on June 16, 1941.

June was a great lover of sports and often enjoyed the company of the “Redeemer” girls who always seemed to excel in sports. She was an avid follower of all sports teams, even in her later years.

At her entrance into the Novitiate on Jan. 2, 1942, June was given the name of Sister Marie Rene. Her teaching career included Michigan grade schools in Flint, Battle Creek and Bloomfield Hills; at the Hall of the Divine Child; at St. Raymond, in Alabama; and in Mt. Morris, Mich., where she was the principal.

Her teaching ministry was interrupted during World War II when she demonstrated her dedication to the community by volunteering to help replace employees who left to join the armed forces. She worked in the IHM laundry for four years and then returned to the classroom.

In 1971 June became the reading coordinator in the Genesee Office of Catholic Education in Flint. She later moved to Florida and joined the staff in the Human Development and Social Concern Office.

June's remaining years in ministry were dedicated to religious education and parish ministry in Bonita Springs and Naples, Florida. In Naples, she worked with the pastor in establishing St. William Parish in Naples. She also assisted in the development of the religious education program in that area. She enjoyed this work very much and continued until health problems indicated a need to slow down.

The strong support she received from Sister Pauline Gorham was very important to her. Those of us who knew June well could attest to the fact that June was a very hard worker and was appreciated for her unselfish dedication both in school, the laundry and in religious education.

She moved to Monroe in 2000 and resided at Norman Towers for three years before moving to the Motherhouse to begin her ministry of prayer.

As June's health began to fail, she became more active in her ministry of prayer. She would often spend many hours in prayer before Mass and in the afternoons before evening prayer. In her days of poor health, she often referred back to her quote from Proverbs by expressing her gratitude for all the care she received while in her own room and later, in health care. She would say, "I received the best of care and I don't have to worry about anything." She was able to place herself in the hands of the Lord whom she knew loved her very much.

The death of her longtime co-workers and friends, Pauline Gorham and Joan McGrath were deep sorrows for June. She often said that she knew they would come to get her. Through her loneliness, she was able to maintain a peace in accepting that God was with her and that soon she would be joining Him and her dear friends in heaven. She truly lived these words, "In all your ways be mindful of God and God will make straight your path."

Written and delivered by Ruth Glaser, IHM
Sept. 5, 2014