



Sister Alice Baker grew up on the east side of Detroit in a family of 10 children. Her sister, now deceased, was a member of the Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary. Sister Alice is the third generation of Bakers in the IHM congregation; her father's aunt and sister were both IHMs.

She is named after her aunt and laughs, "I didn't stand a chance." Her parents were happy with her decision to join the community, however, her father reminded her during family visits that she could come home anytime she wanted.

IHMs taught Sister Alice through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Charles in Detroit. She played many sports in high school as well as participated in the choir. She attended Marygrove College for a year, majoring in physical education; she loved the Chapel at Marygrove and would often stop in for a visit. It was here that she witnessed the IHM Sisters in prayer and became drawn to them.

"I felt God calling me. I avoided it and tried not to listen," she says. She talked to IHM Sister Ann Mary (Schaden) on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception; joined the congregation; and changed her major to history, political science and education.

Sister Alice's first ministry was at Holy Name in Birmingham, Mich., to teach fifth grade. After three years, she went to St. Mark in Cleveland, teaching sixth and seventh grades for four years. She then taught seventh and eighth grades at St. Stephen in Port Huron, Mich., for a year before going to the Hall of the Divine Child in Monroe. Sister Alice also taught at Sacred Heart in Dearborn and at St. Theresa - Visitation, St. Ambrose and St. Jude in Detroit. During her summer breaks, she taught Bible studies throughout the country, to people of different cultures. She would bring back what she learned from these cultures to her classroom in the fall. In 2005, she and a small group of IHM and Dominican sisters started Epiphany Education Center in Detroit.

Sister Alice is passionate about social justice. She has been part of organized marches and protests; been arrested twice for civil disobedience; and kept in jail for five nights. At a rally in Palestine, she endured tear gas and was shot at by the Israeli Army. Currently, she is working toward public awareness of the evil of drone warfare. She is also engaged in immigration reform, nonviolent peacemaking and healing racism.

Sister Alice's greatest joy has been the companionship she has experienced throughout the years. "All along I have felt support. I never feel lonely," she notes.

She knows that she can be who she is because God is with her each step she takes. She is most grateful for her education and Vatican II. "The Vatican II training we got is way beyond I would have gotten otherwise. That grounded me in everything I chose."

