

*Be still and know that I am your God.*

Sister Rosemary Cassar's parents were born in Malta but didn't meet until they both travelled to North Africa. Once they were married, her father came to Detroit to work with his brother in the grocery business before sending for her mother and older sister. Sister Rosemary is the second child in a family of 12 children.



After 17 years in several Michigan parishes, she returned to teaching school and completed her master's degree in theology and religious education. She taught at a Montessori school, at St. Hugo of the Hills and then at Our Lady of Victory, where she later tutored and worked in the office. During that time she also helped out with the IHMs' Amazon book sales.

The IHM Sisters taught her at both Blessed Sacrament Cathedral and St. Francis de Sales. She was drawn to the IHMs' spirituality and joined the community after high school graduation.

She enjoyed her busy schedule and chores and studying and recalls one day having to wax the floor using an electric buffer. The floor was shiny and bright when she was done. In the process she ran over a pair of shoes that came out so shiny, she decided to shine everyone's shoes. After shining 42 pairs of shoes and holding the hot buffer in one place, the tile under the buffer was ruined. That day, Thanksgiving, she and all postulants were reprimanded.



The IHM Amazon book sales is her ministry now. Sister Rosemary prices and lists the donated books on Amazon and fulfills orders. "We are mostly selling spiritual books," she notes. "People are hungry spiritually." She is rewarded by knowing that she is helping others deepen their spirituality.

A highlight of her ministry was when she taught English to Japanese women and children from Mazda Motor Corp. She especially enjoyed working with one rambunctious little boy who eventually became her "assistant." He helped her understand the Japanese children while she taught them English.

Sister Rosemary's first ministry was at St. Mary of Redford teaching second grade before teaching at St. Michael in Flint. She went on to teach at several Detroit schools. After teaching for 17 years, she went into pastoral work and religious education, where she led marriage preparatory classes and prepared parents for their children's baptism and other sacraments, which she found very gratifying. "If parents develop their children's spirituality, they've given them the best for life," she notes.



When Sister Rosemary reflects on the IHM community, it is the contributions that stand out most. "We are leaders in things that need attention in the world," she says. She is most grateful for the support and love she has felt throughout her years in the community. Along with the community, her faith has gotten her through difficult times. "God is with me all the time. I have a feeling of peace."