

Sister Marge Fogarty grew up in Savannah, Ga., along with her five younger brothers. When the family lived on a barrier island off the Georgia coast, she and her brothers spent summer days crabbing off their dock. Those evenings, the family enjoyed a delicious dinner made from the catch of the day.

The IHM Sisters of Philadelphia were some of her grade school teachers. Sister Marge entered their community after high school in 1966. She remembers riding the “Silver Meteor,” a passenger train, with another girl the night before they entered the Postulate; Sister Marge was one of 90 young women who entered that year.

Her first assignment was teaching fourth grade at Epiphany in Miami, for three years. Then for five years, she taught first grade at St. Charles outside of Philadelphia before being assigned to Ss. Peter and Paul in Decatur, Ga. It was there that Sister Marge met the Monroe IHMs. It was also during those years that she experienced a new call, which led her to Monroe.

“It’s a mystery. I think it’s always a mystery how one’s commitment evolves,” she says. And in the spring of 1988, Sister Marge made her commitment in Monroe.

While living in Carleton, Mich., Sister Marge served as religious education director at St. Joseph Parish in Monroe before accepting the position of kindergarten teacher, the first, at St. Patrick School, Carleton.



She taught there eight years before going to a school in Dearborn Heights, Mich. While teaching there, she oversaw the curriculum for the pre-school program as well.

Sister Marge enjoyed working with young children, and after 30 years doing so, she pursued another dream –

working with older adults. After completing programs in gerontology: activity therapy and dementia care, she began a new ministry at the Motherhouse, which has made a strong impact on her own life.

“Working with our sisters has blessed me daily,” she says. “Being able to walk with these women reminds me of how uncertain our future can be, but what counts is trusting God and each other.”

Having an Irish and Scottish heritage is important to her, as is having Southern roots. “I’m truly a Southern girl!” she says. Sister Marge surrounds herself with what’s Southern in her living space. Hospitality is important to her and eating Southern food will always be part of who she is.

Sister Marge is very grateful for her loving family, a community of faith-filled women and trusting friends who have supported her for 50-plus years.

*Marge Fogarty*