

Therese Lenihan

I was born in the Bronx and spent grades one-three with the Dominican Sisters in New York. We moved to Cincinnati where I was taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame and then moved to Detroit.

I attended St. Mary of Redford School grades six through 12, my introduction to the IHMs. After a year at Marygrove, I decided to enter the IHM congregation. I entered on July 2, 1947.

My first teaching assignment was as at Our Lady of Lake Huron. Just before I went there, my family moved back to New York, and at Thanksgiving, my mother came to see me. Almost immediately after her return home she died of a massive heart attack. The following year, I taught at St. John, Benton Harbor, Mich., and then at St. Mary of Redford; I studied science at the University of Detroit while teaching. It was during my time here that my father died in New York.

From St. Mary I went to Girls Catholic Central. One book that strongly influenced me in those post-Vatican II years was *Your God is Too Small* by John Phillips, which opened me up to an expansive sense of God. I taught at St. Vincent High School for four years and then taught again at St. Mary of Redford.

I moved into pastoral ministry and religious education; spent a year as a librarian; and then I moved to Colorado, learning technology skills. This prepared me for my ministry at Marygrove: setting up the personal computer lab for students and then moving into the college computer lab.



After four years at Marygrove, I went to Aurora, Ill., where I worked in Development for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. I moved there with Peggy Schmidt, IHM, who ministered in a nearby parish. After a renewal

program, I lived in Milwaukee with Peggy and worked for several agencies.

When Peggy and I moved to Monroe, I took the place of the Northwest Province secretary who had died in a tragic car accident. Then I served for several years at the Motherhouse in a variety of capacities.



I helped the secretaries at Visitation Spirituality Center to become computer literate; with hospitality; and with editing program materials. I also did a special project for the Congregational Business Office for a number of years.

Soon after I turned 80, I moved to the Motherhouse. I joined the Campus Greening Committee, the Residents' Council, Greeters group and Service

Office. I took advantage of many opportunities for my own growth in spirituality.

Based upon my own sense of some memory loss and the observation and advice of others, I chose to move to our Memory Care Unit in 2017.



I am so grateful for all the congregation has offered to me throughout the years. I am ever so grateful to my brother Tom for being a true loving brother; to Peggy for being a faithful friend; to each IHM for allowing me to share this life with you.

Thank you, God, for being so BIG!