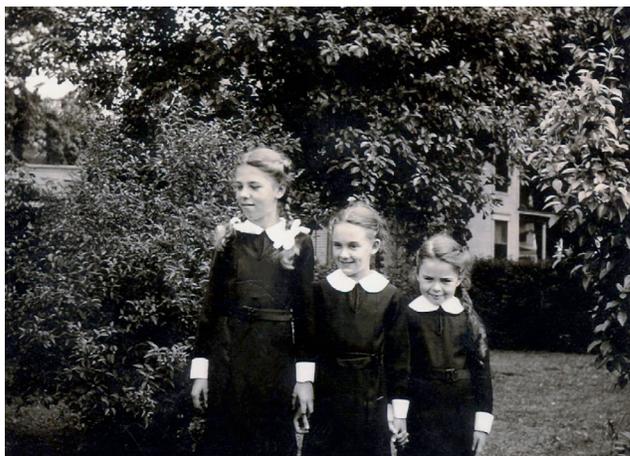


In one sense, you might say I have always been part of the IHM community. My childhood home is the only lot that juts into the community property. I was the middle child of three girls.



The community flower garden was located behind our house, and my younger sister and I spent many hours helping Emil, the gardener. Sister Rose Vincent often worked in the garden, and we would help her in the shelling of tulip bulbs.

My father was an engraver and also directed the choir at St. Mary Church for about 30 years. My mother was a full-time wonderful mother, teaching us in many ways, encouraging creativity and a love of nature. My mother was also very musical, so all of us had the opportunity to take piano. I shifted to the marimba in high school.



Two things were key factors in my decision to join the IHM community. One of my teachers in high school said to me, “Did you ever think of coming across the campus?” The other factor was a large old-fashioned framed quote I saw outside the little chapel: “If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart.”

My ministry in the community began around 1950 at Immaculata High School in Detroit, where I taught music and continued to study it at Marygrove. I earned my bachelor’s degree from Marygrove and my master’s in music from DePaul University.

From Immaculata, I went to St. Francis de Sales, where I taught fifth and seventh grades.



Then I was sent to St. Boniface in Detroit and Sacred Heart, Roseville. After that, I went to St. Mary in Lorain, Ohio, where I taught choral and fine arts for three years and later served as principal. While I was there, the high school closed and a brand new central

high school — Lorain Catholic — opened. I served as the new school’s principal for about six years.

I had a year of renewal at Visitation and hoped to remain there and be trained in its ministry, but I was elected provincial for the Southeast Province. After my term of office, I took a year of renewal and training in retreat/spiritual direction at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Pennsylvania, and then joined the staff at Mercy Retreat Center in Madison, Conn.

When a position opened at Visitation, I returned to Monroe and ministered there for five years and then freelanced in retreat work for two years while living at St. Michael Convent in Monroe. The Crawfton

coordinator position became available in 1995, and I took it, with the provision that I could continue to give some retreats, one of which was weaving. I loved my 11 years ministering at Crawfton!

I returned to Monroe in 2006 and for a year, I served as retreat director and organized days of reflection. I retired in 2007 and became a volunteer. Today, my ministry is one of prayer and presence.