

# Rose Ange Leddy

## *Early years*

Born in Dearborn, the third youngest of nine children, I was 2 years old when my brother was killed by a car as he walked to kindergarten. This tragedy had a profound impact on my parents and family, especially my mother. Soon after, we moved to Detroit across the street from St. Mary of Redford.

I attended school there for 12 years and was encouraged by Mom to be active in sports, activities and religious practices. Most of the sisters I had were very affirming and encouraging. I learned a lot helping them after school and prior to beginning of new school years: unpacking and delivering new books, sorting and organizing primary seatwork and doing bulletin boards. Childhood was basically happy with plenty of time to play outside, read, be creative in organizing mini-fairs with games, puppet shows, etc. for the neighborhood kids.

Even though I always wanted to be a teacher, I also felt drawn after junior year to join the Glenmary Sisters, who ministered in social services and evangelization in Appalachia. As I read their vocation information, I realized that my introverted self probably was not called to be knocking on strangers' doors. Sister Francis Bernard invited me to become an IHM.

I was resistant and remember during the Dec. 8 Novena "wrestling" in my prayer and reflections. Well, we know who won that! My parents were very supportive, in fact, they had named me after Sister Rose Ange Abraham.



## *IHM community life and ministry*

On entering the community, the rules of silence were the biggest surprise and proved most challenging for me. Yet one of the greatest gifts in formation were all the times I was sent to Chapel after supper and I would be the only one there in the dark and quiet.

I was always enthusiastic about my ministries: education at all levels, school administration and social work, Motherhouse administration, ongoing support groups and hospice social work. Developing and facilitating retreats for persons with physical and cognitive limitations has been a significant gift in my life.



## *Spirituality*

In the novitiate when researching for a paper on Martin Luther, I felt like I was losing my faith because he was right in his criticisms and condemnation of certain Catholic practices. In fact, it was an awakening, a moment of change and growth.

As a child, my faith and religious practice were about earning, shoulds and magic formulas. As

I matured, I experienced years of wandering in a spiritual desert. Psalm 63 spoke to me. Gradually I have grown in accepting God's Presence, nourishing me through the Psalms, nature, poetry and turning "I long for You" to "God longs for me."

The community has profoundly gifted me in many ways and times in my life: the many sisters, from childhood through years of ministr into elder years, recognizing and calling forth gifts I wasn't aware of in myself, encouraging, enabling, supporting intellectual, emotional, spiritual growth, deep and lasting friendships and relationships

