

# Jean McInerney

God's presence has always been felt in Jean McInerney's life. She was fortunate to be born into a very religious family to parents, John and Bernadette, and was baptized in Chicago. Her sister, Marie, was born a year and a half after Jean and a brother, John, six years later.

The true awakening of her love for Jesus and the spark of her vocation came in the second grade while preparing for First Communion. The story of Jesus' suffering and death for love of her made her decide that the only way she could respond to so great a love was to devote her life to him.

Shortly after, her family moved to Brazil, where her father was manager of Wilson & Co. Meat Packaging. Her exposure to formal religious education was minimal, but while living an active, happy teenage life, the thought of being a sister remained with her.

When it came time to enter an American school, the Redemptorist priest was quick to recommend St. Mary Academy. Jean seemed to know she belonged there the moment she met the IHMs. Her teachers and the school's atmosphere strengthened her love of God. Sister Thomas Aquinas impressed her the most; she taught her students to meditate on and emulate Marian virtues. Jean entered the Postulate in August 1950 and was received the following August and given the religious name, Sister Jean Pierre.



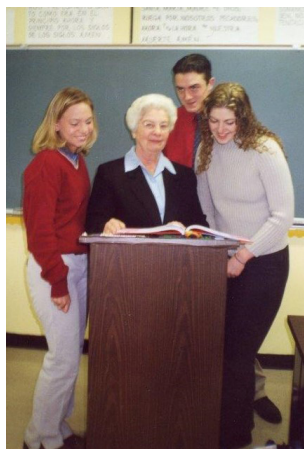
Of course, Final Vows was a significant turning point for Jean. God's love was never more present. Vatican II followed and though difficult at first, it was a liberating turning point. As always, our leaders were insightful and prepared us as we moved along.

Sister Jean Pierre's first assignment was at Holy Redeemer in Detroit where she taught third grade for one year followed by five years at Holy Name in Birmingham. Then she taught at St. John and St. Mary in Monroe. Here, she was chosen to be a "critic teacher," helping the sisters develop their teaching skills. She excelled in her teaching and loved it.



In 1967, she taught her beloved language, Spanish, at St. Mary High School in Wayne, Mich. (In Brazil, she spoke Portuguese, which is very similar to Spanish.) She was a great language teacher. Then back to Holy Redeemer for 10 more years of teaching Spanish and was chairperson in the Language Department. Her next assignment was at Lumen Christi, in Jackson, Mich., from 1979 to 2002, where she was teacher, Spanish department chairperson and on the advisory board.

She experienced a renewal via the theology update: another turning point energizing her life. Once again, she approached this with gratitude, optimism and a reason to rejoice.



In 2003 she retired, living at Norman Towers (the former Hall of the Divine Child) and volunteered as a driver for Motherhouse sisters. In 2005, she moved to the Motherhouse and continued as a driver. Now her assignment is prayer and presence. She hopes to be an even more generous, loving, and compassionate IHM.