

Marcella Regan

Marcella Regan grew up in Detroit, along with her nine siblings (four boys and five girls). Their parents, Thomas and Mary Regan, were Irish Catholics and devoted to their faith. Marcella was baptized at Our Lady of Help Catholic Church in Detroit and made her First Communion there. Our Lady of Help School was taught by IHMs.



Due to the Depression the Regan family moved several times because of her dad's work, which necessitated the change of schools for the children. When Marcella was in fifth grade, the family was in Holy Redeemer and she completed her education at the parish school. She loved attending Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions and would go to Our Lady's altar and pray for inspiration on what to do with her life. It was at these prayer times that Marcella felt drawn to become an IHM Sister.

On Oct. 15, 1950, she stepped through the front door of St. Mary Convent, Monroe, and entered a new journey. She was received into the Novitiate Aug. 15, 1951 and given the name Sister Ann Lawrence. After earning her teaching degree, her first mission was St. Mary School in Monroe where she taught second grade, followed by five more years of teaching primary grades. She then began teaching junior high and high school; she loved teaching.

In 1969, she studied at Lumen Vitae in Brussels, Belgium. This was a great experience, and she will always treasure her time there.

From 1970 to 1986, Marcella ministered in several places: she was a retreat consultant; religious education director; lecturing assistant for the Northwest Province; and Vice Province coordinator for Mission Awareness. She always had an interest in global education and taught her students about developing nations. This led her to create an office of Mission Awareness in our community.

With Sister Joanne Witucki, IHM, Marcella helped prepare IHM Sisters to make the transition from the classroom to religious education. As an IHM and religious education consultant, she offered pastoral sensitivity and a solid catechetical and biblical foundation for ministry post-Vatican II. She eased the way for many sisters.



When our community offered to sponsor us in the Global Awareness Teacher Educational (GATE) Program, she immediately offered her services. She was selected and spent three years in

Juarez, Mexico, along with Sister Julie Slowik, IHM. Together they trained eager women to spread the Gospel. While there, Marcella also was the writer for the Columban Fathers in Omaha, Neb. She took one day a week to work on this project. This necessitated her taking several plane trips to gain information about their ministries and give them her writings. This experience was great! The culture shock of returning to America was difficult; she had enjoyed living the simple life in Mexico.

After teaching at Holy Redeemer and St. Mary of Redford, Marcella returned to the Motherhouse where she served at Visitation and was the sacristan at the Motherhouse.

Her journey was enriching and fulfilling.

