

## Beth (Marie Alma) Wood, IHM



Sister Beth Wood grew up in Detroit and attended St. Brigid Elementary School along with her brothers. The Adrian Dominican Sisters were their teachers.

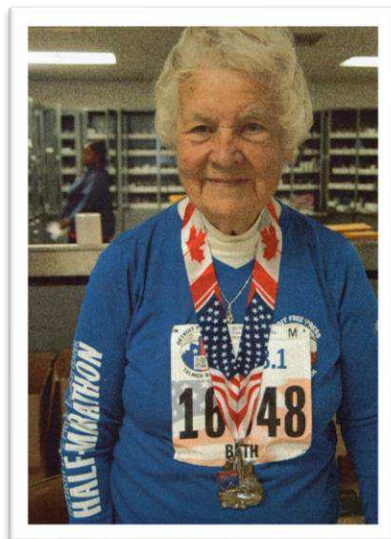
Beth can point to many examples of the Spirit at work on her behalf, including her first day of school at Immaculata. “My parents had registered me, but I was on a waiting list. I set off on the first day of school, tuition in my pocket. In the office, a sister noticed me and asked me my name. A girl who had registered called, but couldn’t come, so I took her place!” In her junior year, Sister Beth’s class was completing a retreat and Sister Maria suggested the girls try very hard to give their full

attention to the retreat priest. At dismissal Sister Maria said, “I noticed you sat very still during the conference.” For the first time out loud, Beth replied, “I think I want to be a sister!”

Sister Beth joined the IHM community without much preparation and no set arrival date. Deadline date for entrance was July 2, 1946. I arrived about 9:30 p.m. and all the sisters were in bed. But I still got in, thanks to a sister who was dressed in her bathrobe, veil and flashlight in hand! Sister Beth was sent out on her First Profession Day, Jan. 2, 1949, to St. Boniface, Detroit, to teach fifth grade, then on to Our Lady of Lourdes, River Rouge, Mother of Our Savior, Detroit (56 fifth and sixth grade students). “Historic event –



we began driving to and from school!” Next was St. Joseph School, Trenton, Mich., then to Immaculate Heart of Mary in Minnetonka, Minn. and back to Michigan to St. Raymond and St. Martin, both in Detroit; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Emmett, where Beth was teacher and principal for seven years.



In the early '70s, Claudia Carlen, IHM, suggested to the administration the need for a few more IHM librarians. Sister Beth had been teaching for 22 years and that summer her assignment stated: Library Science at U of M (Ann Arbor). “Sister Mary Catherine Quick made me aware of a library position at Lake Michigan Catholic

High School in St. Joseph, Mich., where I spent six happy years. Then, the Holy Spirit through Sister Joan of Arc, told me of two schools that needed a librarian: St. Mary Academy (SMA) and Immaculata. After a tour of each library and interviews, SMA acknowledged my visit and hoped that I would return.” This lasted 10 years.

“Finally – ROME! I experienced 10 wonderful years as the librarian at Graduate House of Studies for North American Priests. I attended private papal Masses, Lenten station churches and St. Pope John Paul II blessed us and ushered in the New Year and century, 2000.”

Sister Beth has competed in 25 full and half marathons. Her greatest joy has been following the direction of the Holy Spirit. “Our IHM community has been my source of life and love ‘all down the years.’”

