

## Esther LeDuc, IHM



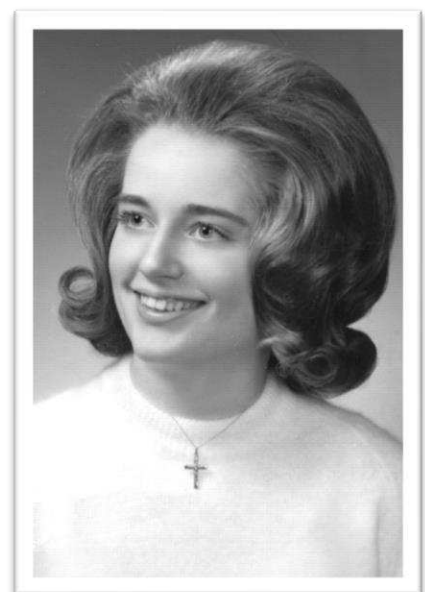
I grew up in St Gregory's Parish in Detroit, Mich. I am the third of five daughters of Paul and Wanda LeDuc. My life has been a gift from the beginning. I was born on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1948. I was three months premature and weighed only three pounds. The doctors didn't expect my mother nor I to live, but fortunately we both survived. This was considered a miracle by all!

I attended St. Gregory grade and high school for 12 years. I was a very good student and was always involved in numerous school activities. I loved to help the sisters after school.

As a preteen, I was thinking I might have a vocation to religious life. Not long after that, I told my mother that I was thinking I might have a vocation in a religious a life. I told her I asked God for a specific sign. If God wanted me to be a sister, Mom would have a daughter. My mother laughed and said she didn't think it was possible. "Oh Esther, I'm 40 years old, I'm too old to have a baby! Shortly after that, we were in the kitchen again talking. Mom said," Esther, you know the conversation you had with God asking about a sign if you have a religious vocation? I'm pregnant! On Aug. 6, 1961, Patricia Marie was born. God's plan and how it is carried out amazes me!

I graduated from high school on June 12, 1966 and entered the IHM community on Sept. 10, 1966. I suffered a serious head injury two weeks after joining the community and had to return home. While at home I began attending Marygrove College in Detroit, majoring in child study. I was preparing for a career as an elementary schoolteacher. After I graduated from Marygrove in May of 1971, I decided to return to the IHMs in Monroe. In August 1971, I reentered the community.

I taught kindergarten at Gesu Elementary School before completing my Canonical Year. Once I had completed



those studies, I began my formal teaching ministry at St. Regis in Birmingham. I completed my Masters in Remedial Reading & Learning Disabilities before moving to teach at Saint Gerard Majella in St. Louis, Mo.

After 13 years in a classroom, God led me in a new direction as a clinical social worker. To prepare for this, I attended George Warren Brown, School of Social Work, Washington University, St. Louis. Mo. After earning my master's degree, I worked as a Clinical Social Worker in a variety of settings: a counseling agency, private practice, a nursing home, a rehabilitation center and a homeless shelter.



In 2007, God led me back to Michigan where I ministered at Lake Orion Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Jail Outreach Ministry and Hope Homeless Shelter. God has always given me what I have most needed. I am forever grateful for my family, my IHM community, and the people I have met in my ministry.