

Janet Lemon, IHM



Janet's favorite symbol, the butterfly, describes her life journey of transformation.

Janet was born on March 18, 1933 in Pontiac, Mich. to Lucille and Charles Lemon. She was the only girl born into a family of three brothers, Dwane, Gene and Ron. They all arrived during the Depression. Her father provided for them by selling magazines to farmers who paid with food.

Janet attended St. Frederick grade and high school. One day she came upon a picture of Jesus with the caption "I WANT YOU". She told God, "I'm ready now to enter the IHM community." Her Mom was heart-broken because two of her sons were serving in Korea leaving her youngest brother home. Janet was received on Aug. 19, 1951.

Janet was homesick for four years and she thought if she could see her house once more she'd be okay. While in formation and with a group of IHMs, Janet asked if they could just ride by her family home. She was content to simply reconnect with her family home. After that she said, "I was no longer homesick."

Janet spent 24 years in the classroom. She taught at St. Joseph Trenton, Holy Redeemer, St. John Fenton, St. Raymond, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nativity in Hollywood, Fla. and St. Hugo of the Hills. Her special memories include her six years at St. Raymond's and her four years at Nativity. She loved the children and life in her local communities were happy, stimulating years.

Janet's next 24 years were spent in Elder Care, another "butterfly" transforming experience. In 1979, Janet assisted Sr. Rita Critster at St. Mary Academy as the Resident Directress.

In 1989, Janet began three months of renewal at Glen Falls, New York, which she enjoyed immensely. She was hired as the Activity Director/ Pastoral Minister at Madonna Villa in Fraser, Mich. After two years there, she did in-house Elder Care in private homes in Bloomfield Hills. Her joy was to listen to their memories. Janet's next life journey led her to Marydale Retirement



Center in Port Huron. After seven years, she moved to Gabriel Richard Convent in Riverview. Janet ministered at the Siena Literacy Center where she taught adults to read. She also volunteered at Christ/Net Homeless Shelter in Southland.



In 2011, she returned to the Motherhouse certainly not to retire. Although her butterfly wings may have slowed, they still flapped. She makes hand towels for the gift shop; volunteers in the CBO; was a Eucharist Minister; a member of the Motherhouse bell choir and prepares the chapel for funerals. Meeting with her profession classmates brings great her great joy. She's a daily walker, voracious reader and party-planner.

Janet is most grateful for her gift of faith and for all the opportunities the community provides, in Janet's words "To deepen my spirituality and to grow more intimate with my loving God."