

## Barb Northrup, IHM



Barb Northrup is a twin. The twins, Barb and Beverly, had a brother, Thomas. All were born in Detroit, Mich. to Norine and Arthur Northrup. Barb attended Epiphany Elementary and Rosary High School. Sadly, twin Beverly passed away in 2018.

Barb's elementary and high school years were dedicated to The Liberating Mission, to be with communal friends and servicing in the classroom at Most Holy Trinity. She also transported IHM Sisters to their new missions.

Eucharist, prayer, commitment to community and The Liberating Mission were lived by diverse, gifted IHM Women. These women challenged and provided Barb early formation and direction in one communal spirit.

Barb felt called in the eighth grade and wrote a letter to the IHM community requesting entrance. She was asked to wait until she completed high school. She felt called to commit her life with women who collectively shared prayer, faith and calling for the common good. In high school, she went to Loveland, Ohio, during the summers to share life with The Grail Women. As she was empowered, so likewise she sought to empower others.

She came to the IHM community in 1965, but realized it was not her time. She left and became a part of Volunteers in Service to America (now AmeriCorps VISTA). She trained and became a community organizer in Louisville, Kentucky and Appalachia.

After this, she found a job at Sears and Roebuck that provided a way to pay for her college education. She completed her B.A. in teaching at Mercy College. She re-entered the Congregation in 1971. She drove her Mustang convertible to St. Francis de Sales, where initial Formation was stationed. She taught at Epiphany and Gesu



Elementary School and later acquired a master's degree from Wayne State in Clinical Social Work.

She worked for several eclectic agencies, in substance abuse and addiction, older adult services, the Pace Program and older adult mental health services, evaluating clients for in-patient emergency care, outpatient in-home services, assisted living and nursing home facilities.

She believed the Charism and heritage of the IHM congregation had a major role in her spiritual life. She believed her mission unit, The Karner Blues (named after an endangered butterfly common to Michigan),



had been essential in calling her to live the Gospel fully and to carry on the work of the founders. She never lost faith, but in challenging times, the Mission Unit and the 12-step spirituality program helped her to reclaim and evolve in her spiritual life.

She is grateful to the community for calling forth and living a spirituality of radical justice, working to build a culture of peace and right relationships on this Earth for all of creation. She is thankful for the IHM vision of diversified ministries and the power of women collectively. She is grateful for sharing a diversity of gifts, different forms of membership, commitment to God and living the congregational, wisdom, Charism, and heritage.