Carol Kelly, IHM

Carol Anne Kelly was born on May 5, 1942, in Detroit to Mary and Martin Kelly. She has a sister four years younger and had a brother six years younger, now deceased. She grew up on the westside and enjoyed toys, board games, swimming and ice skating.

She had two cousins who were IHMs. She was taught by IHMs for 12 years at St. Mary of Redford. Planning to become a teacher, she went to the University of Detroit in 1960-61 and during that winter felt called to become an IHM Sister. In the novitiate and juniorate, Carol's spirituality grew with her theology classes and instructions. Her prayer expanded from rote to conversing with God.



Carol's first teaching experience was in Detroit at Annunciation. Then at Our Lady of Good Counsel School, she collaborated with the principal, assistant principal and primary teachers to plan the curriculum for an ungraded primary program. Carol implemented this program in her classroom the following September. During her four years of teaching there, she became aware that Catholic children in public schools lacked sufficient religious instruction. So, Carol decided to be a Director of Faith Formation in suburban parishes that had no Catholic schools. As the director, Carol trained catechists and assisted with lesson plans, Sacramental preparations and student liturgies.



After ten years of faith formation ministry, Carol's love of reading books and guiding people led her to work in library ministry. She studied and earned a Library Science Master's Degree at the University of Michigan. While there, she served as a student librarian. Afterward. she worked in the Detroit suburbs as a Youth Services Librarian at Bishop Borgess Catholic High School and Southgate Public Library, Trenton Public Library and Wayne Public Library. Later at Wayne, she also became the Adult Services Librarian. After 16 years, Carol retired from her library position at Wayne. IHM Leadership suggested she consider using her librarian skills by assisting the IHM Motherhouse Library Director. Carol has been ministering in

the IHM Library at the IHM Senior Living Care Center since then.

One of Carol's most memorable spiritual experiences was her 50th anniversary of vows. She joyfully celebrated this special occasion by renewing them at St. Cyprian Parish in Riverview, Mich. Carol had been a parishioner there for over 10 years while she lived at

Gabriel Richard Convent in Riverview. The Eucharist was followed by a delightful picnic luncheon at Elizabeth Park on the Detroit River for her family and friends, which the sisters at the convent prepared and served.

Carol is grateful to the IHM community for her education and many spiritual opportunities. She feels much gratitude to her friends who have offered support, challenges and fun throughout her 60 years of service.

