

Celeste Schoppy, IHM



Celeste Schoppy's life shaping scripture text is from John 10:10: *I have come so that you may have life and have it abundantly.* She came into life on Sept. 2, 1933 in Mt. Carmel, PA, the middle child of seven with three sisters older and three brothers younger. Her parents were Jerry and Mary Jacobs Schoppy. Her family engaged fully in Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish life and Celeste remembers Sundays as a time for Mass and then a wonderful dinner with all in her family present. The Immaculata IHM Sisters were her grade and high school teachers who stimulated her desire for learning. On top of that she said, "They were fun!" In her senior year, she felt a yearning for a "more abundant life." On Sept. 8, 1951, she entered the IHM Congregation at Immaculata, PA, with the full support of her parents and siblings.

After her first vows in 1954, Celeste taught the upper grades in two IHM schools, enjoyed preached retreats and scripture classes in the summers. Her final vows happened on Aug. 15, 1959. Always curious about deepening her gifts for teaching and her spiritual life, she earned her BA in 1967 from Immaculata College. She majored in English and Theology. She went for a Master of Arts in Religious Studies in 1972. She spent seven summers at La Salle University in Philadelphia with excellent teachers exploring the teachings of Vatican II. She taught religious education in high schools in Arlington, VA and in Miami, FL where she also came in contact with IHM Sisters from Monroe, MI. Over several months and after several conversations with Monroe IHMs and with her Superiors at Immaculata, she transferred to the Monroe IHMs in 1972, making her transfer commitment on Dec. 8, 1973.

From 1973 to 1988, Celeste engaged in adult faith formation and RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) ministries in several parishes in Michigan, Virginia, South Carolina and Alabama. She also took courses in clinical pastoral education, receiving CPE Certification in 1992 so that she could serve as a hospital chaplain in Missouri, Indiana and Florida. From 1989 to 1994, she pursued training in the art of spiritual direction in San Antonio, TX. She



completed an internship in spiritual direction in Burlingame, CA and then served as a Spiritual Director and Retreat Director in St. Louis, MO and Notre Dame and



Huntington, IN. Between 1998 and 2006, she served at Transfiguration Parish, in Marietta, GA, a very large and lively post Vatican II parish with twenty-two people on staff, where every bit of her training and gifts were engaged. In 2010, she retired to Monroe and she continues to serve in myriad ways.

Celeste's greatest joy is "accompanying adults in growing their faith and ongoing spiritual commitment as an instrument of the Holy Spirit in their lives, seeing goodness in each one. I marvel at the care and beauty that God is." Celeste indeed has life and indeed "life more abundantly."