

Elizabeth Walters, IHM



Elizabeth Walters' grew up in Southwest Detroit with her parents, Helen and Floyd and her sister, Joan. The family was close knit and they loved each other deeply. Togetherness as a family, education and work, were all highly valued in her family. Even though her parents only completed the eighth grade, both excelled in lifelong learning. Elizabeth's mother was a musician with many natural talents. Her dad worked in commercial refrigeration and he belonged to a labor union. The entire Walters family were committed to worker rights, responsibilities and solidarity.

Many of Elizabeth's friends in her neighborhood went to Holy Redeemer Grade and High School so when she was about to begin the first grade, Elizabeth asked if she could go there too, even though the Walters family was not Catholic. With the agreement of her parents, Elizabeth was baptized during her first grade.

The IHM Sisters and Redemptorist priests and brothers looked out for Elizabeth throughout her twelve years at Redeemer. Rev. Joe Dustin was her spiritual father. She had grown close to some of the IHM Sisters at Redeemer, especially Sister Mary Patrick.

Later Elizabeth's mother and dad joined the church.

Her friends thought she had lost her mind and her parents opposed her belief that she was being called to religious life, nonetheless Elizabeth prepared to join the IHM Sisters and after graduation she responded to God's call.

Elizabeth deeply appreciated the formation program provided by the congregation. She especially enjoyed learning about Jesus' life and mission and about prayer and a relationship with God and with people in need.

Elizabeth's first mission was Our Lady of Lourdes in River Rouge. Her second mission was to St. Patrick School on Parsons Street in Detroit. For the next decades Elizabeth continued to live and work in impoverished neighborhoods in Detroit in the ministry of teaching youth and young adults in high school and at Marygrove College and in the ministry of peacemaking and social, racial, and



economic justice. During these years Elizabeth returned to Holy Redeemer High School several times to teach and to serve as co-principal with Jean Morsch.



The lack of funding needed for quality education closed many schools during Elizabeth's teaching ministry. When the diocese closed Holy Redeemer High School, Elizabeth was part of the group that founded Detroit Cristo Rey High School.

For 60 years as an IHM Sister, Elizabeth has strived to deepen in union with God and promote and serve the Gospel of Jesus. She knows that the good works she was part of, would not have been possible without the IHM Community. Elizabeth is so very grateful for the formation

program she participated in, the excellent education she received, the missions to which she was sent, her lifetime of learning and experience in nonviolence, peacemaking, and social, racial, and economic justice, and the spiritual opportunities and support the congregation has provided all down the years!