

Mary McCann, IHM

In reflecting with Mary on her celebration of 60 years as an IHM, the word **wonderment** recurs. Born Jan. 18, 1944, the second eldest of 11 children, Mary grew up in Clawson, Mich. Many stories surround her long bus trip down Woodward Avenue to Girls Catholic Central High School for Girls in Detroit, where she met the IHM Sisters whom she would soon join.

Wonderment about her years of IHM ministry.

Mary entered the Congregation Sept. 7, 1961. She grew in her understanding of her vocation, of the inward life, of Sacred Scripture with Margaret Brennan as Novice Director. After earning her B. A. from Marygrove and teaching in junior high schools and as principal in Detroit, Mary continued her education at the University of Notre Dame earning her M.A. in 1971 and her Ph.D. in Educational Administration in 1973. This led to teaching in the Education Department at Marygrove for several years.



Working from 1979 to 1982 with new members joining the Congregation led to the broader sphere of adult formation and spirituality at Regis College in Toronto. Mary worked as co-director of spirituality and ministry programs at Regis College, University of Toronto, School of Theology. Her role included direct teaching and spiritual direction of students. The years there as part of the faculty and as part of the vibrant IHM community whose members engaged in ministry in Toronto extended from 1982 to 1994.

Wonderment about service in Congregational leadership.

Mary agreed to leave her name in nomination as a follow up to her role as Chair of the Governance Committee that designed the transition from six provinces to a Leadership Council of eight. She thought she might be elected one of the Mission Councilors to assist in the implementation of the new governance plan. However, life took a significant turn when

Mary was elected President of the IHM Congregation in 1994. The Chapter delegates called for a collaborative mode of governance where the gift of each Council member was enabled in service to the IHM mission. This call was a good fit for Mary's administrative and pastoral skills. In addition, Mary's formation in spiritual direction and her love for the IHM Congregation and for religious life provided a grounding for the work of the 1994-2000 leadership term. During her presidency, the IHM community engaged in theological updating through the Theological Education Project. The sustainable Motherhouse renovation began after an extensive consultation and approval of the Congregation. The feminist history, *Building Sisterhood*, was completed with Mary co-writing Chapter 10 with Maryfran Barber, IHM. And close to the end of the term, the Congregation was brought into the new Millennium.



Wonderment now.

Following a post leadership sabbatical, Mary continued to write on topics of interest, particularly the commitment to sustainability and ecological responsibility. Mary's writings include *Time to Sow*, seasonal reflections on our Earth community. She also co-wrote with Paula Cathcart, IHM, *Ecological Consciousness: a 21st Century Imperative*. Mary resides in the IHM SLC where she participates in community events and ministers to residents as she is able.