

## Patricia Rourke, IHM

Patricia Gail Rourke was born on June 4, 1943. She was the fifth daughter of Irene and Henry Rourke. Since there was an eight-year gap between her and her next oldest sister, her parents prayed for another baby to raise with her. The next October, her sister and companion Kathy was born into the family.

The year that she was seven, she made her First Communion, her three oldest sisters married, she was a flower girl three times, and she became an aunt.

Pat attended Precious Blood Grade School in Detroit for grades one through six. Her family then moved to Birmingham, where she attended Holy Name School. This was her first contact with the IHM Sisters. Her teacher, Sister Immaculata, was vivacious and creative. For the first time, she loved school but missed her friends from Detroit.



There were no Catholic high schools in Birmingham. Her parents chose to send her to Immaculata High School in Detroit. To her surprise, Sister Immaculata was a freshman teacher. She also reunited with her friends from Precious Blood. It was at this time that she became aware that she wanted to be an IHM Sister. That happened on Sept. 6, 1961.



The Postulate and Novitiate opened to her many wonders which softened her homesickness and required adjustments. Formation was a continually unfolding experience.

A key event in the Novitiate was the death of her father. The community was very gracious to her and her family.

Her first assignment was teaching sixth grade at St. Thomas in Ann Arbor. She taught for six years at St. Mary in Monroe, then three years at Holy Redeemer High School. It was there that she felt the call to become a psychologist. She attained a Ph.D. from Saybrook University in California,

which also had a teaching center in Detroit. She returned to Monroe with the encouragement of friends and began a private practice that grew into the Human Potential Center, which is still in existence. The best part of her practice was the opportunity to service the IHM Health Care.

During that time, she also awakened herself to writing poetry and published four books. She is now enjoying living in Monroe and participating in the many opportunities offered to her.

She is very grateful to God for the unfolding of her life as an IHM.

