

Remembering for Ruth McGuire, IHM
March 22, 1924 - Sept. 10, 2022



Ruth was born in Detroit March 22, 1924, to James and Jennie McGuire. The family moved from Pennsylvania to Detroit after their second child was born. Ruth grew up in a middle-class family of five children. Her siblings were James, Doris, Lois and Alice, and they have all predeceased her. Ruth was educated in public schools from kindergarten through high school, faithfully attending Sunday School religion classes until the age of 14. She was recruited to teach catechism to second graders, which she was happy to do for almost four years.

Ruth entered the Society of Mary Reparatrix at age 18 in 1942. It was in 1971 when Ruth formally transferred her religious vows to the IHM

Congregation after having lived with members of the IHM for a year. Ruth felt she had finally found her niche in the IHM community, feeling very much at home with us.

Most of Ruth's professional life as a sister was spent in the field of religious education in parishes within the Archdiocese of Detroit after having been a catechist trainer for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati (Ohio) for a couple of years. For two years, she was pastoral coordinator of a parish in the Marquette Diocese of Michigan. For one year, she ministered as a pastoral assistant in Muskegon, Michigan. Ruth also ministered for the Diocese of Columbus (Ohio).

Ruth came home to the Motherhouse at the end of March 1992 and served many years as the coordinator of the "Shoppe."

We recall what a beautiful singing voice she had and how she enhanced our liturgies.

Ruth treasured her life as a religious and was grateful for the many beautiful examples of kindness in the sisters with whom she lived and ministered.

In her own words, Ruth said: "I have valued the freedom and support I have found within the IHM Congregation, the openness and acceptance of the many differences among us, and the value the community places on each person and her giftedness from God."

One of the things so many of us remember about Ruth was her gift as a seamstress; she was known for sewing her own clothes and how they were all color coordinated! She often shared her gift of sewing, serving as a tailor to help other sisters with their clothes. But the most wonderful gift Ruth ever gave us as a community happened several years ago when the Chapel was renovated and a new altar was purchased.

It was then that Ruth was invited to make several new altar cloths. She made one altar cloth that covers the top of the altar and is often used during the week and one altar cloth that is for Sunday's celebrations of the Eucharist. If you have not seen these altar cloths up close, I invite you to come and look at her wonderful handiwork. Whenever we see them, let us give thanks for the gift of Ruth's life with us in the community and for her beautiful gifts in our Chapel, which serve to enhance our celebration of the Eucharist.

Ruth promises to continue to pray for both of the congregations to which she belonged, the Sisters of Mary Reparatrix and the IHM Sisters. Ruth firmly believes that we will remember her in prayer and that one day we will all be united in the fullness of life that awaits us.

From the writings of Sr. Ruth McGuire, IHM, with edits by Ellen Rinke, IHM and Monica Stuhlreyer, IHM

Delivered by Monica Stuhlreyer, IHM