

## Jacinta Szczygielski, IHM

*"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Live on in my Love." John 15:9*

Sister Jacinta Szczygielski grew up in Hamtramck, Michigan, the daughter of Joseph and Anna; she was the second oldest of six siblings. She was baptized at Transfiguration Church and attended St. Florian Elementary School before attending the Felician Academy in Detroit. She joined the Felician Sisters after high school graduation. She earned her bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Madonna College – now University – and her master's degree in Franciscan spirituality from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York. Sister Jacinta spent 25 years with the Felician Sisters before joining the IHM congregation shortly after Vatican II; she was attracted to the concept of being a "Sister, Servant."

The journey of the transition was truly blessed. Sister Margaret Brennan, IHM, and Sister Marie Gatza, IHM, were a gentle presence of support and affirmation.

She has served in a variety of roles throughout her ministerial life. Her early ministries were with young children, teaching kindergarten or primary grades in and around Detroit, Bay City and Grand Rapids, Michigan. She then moved on to teach older children. She served as the Title I Reading and math teacher for the Detroit Public Schools at St. Vincent Middle School in Detroit for 19 years. In the mid-1990s, Sister Jacinta attended Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training at Harper Hospital and Henry Ford Hospital, both in Detroit, before becoming a hospital chaplain at St. John Health System – Oakland Hospital in Madison Heights, Michigan. Although officially "retired," she continued volunteering at St. John – Oakland.

"It is my hope in these retirement years to be ever mindful of God's people struggling for peace and justice," she says.

