

Marie Cyril Delisi, IHM

Sister Marie Cyril Delisi's page in the IHM Book of Life reads:

The greatness of God overshadows me. All down the years, [God] has nourished me and provided me with strength and gifts to:

- *acknowledge my heritage;*
- *overcome the negative forces in life;*
- *accept and adjust to changes in community and lifestyle;*
- *recognize the wonders and beauty of women and men;*
- *appreciate the internal power that controls attitude;*
- *surround me with women who exude goodness and love and encourage growth.*

I give praise and thanks for my life that was, is and will be.



She joined the IHM Sisters in 1947 and was received the following year. Her first assignment was teaching second grade at St. Joseph School in Monroe. She taught the elementary grades for most of the first 20 years of her ministry at Michigan schools in Roseville, Detroit, Jackson and Coldwater. In 1968, she was missioned to St. John School in Benton Harbor, Michigan, teaching grades three, four, seven and eight. She became the assistant principal of St. John/Lake Michigan Catholic Junior High School. A year later, she moved to Battle Creek, Michigan to assume assistant principal duties at St. Philip Catholic Central, a post she held for five years.



After a year of renewal, Sister Marie Cyril served as a staff associate for the Missouri Catholic Conference in Jefferson City, Missouri. For six years, she ministered as principal of St. Mary Elementary School in Wayne, Michigan, before teaching fifth grade at St. Cecilia, Detroit, for two years. From there, she served 10 years as principal of St. Ambrose Academy in Detroit. She "retired," but she volunteered at St. Matthew in Detroit a year later. But then Sister Marie Cyril (along with four Dominican Sisters, Alice Baker, IHM and the late Mary Laird, IHM) noticed an educational need on Detroit's east side and set out to meet that need. With a clear vision and a great deal of hard work, the Epiphany Education Center was born. The center provides free after-school tutoring, individualized learning, enrichment opportunities and quarterly evaluations for students in grades one through eight. Before enrollment, Sister



Marie Cyril talked with parents and children alike to determine educational needs and concerns. The center emphasizes regular attendance, parental involvement and the child's commitment to the program. "That approach," says Sister Marie Cyril, "gets positive results."

She served as co-director of Epiphany Education Center for 11 years and is still an active volunteer tutor.