

Diane (Ancilla) McCormack, IHM

“Gifts are meant to be given away and that’s what I do – share my talents, abilities, and limitations with those I meet.”



Diane McCormack was born Sept. 25, 1939, to Olive LaJeunesse and Roger McCormack in Lauriam, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Her younger brother Gary was born three years later. In 1941 her dad took a job with the federal government and the family moved to Detroit; her mom worked at Ford Motor Company. Diane went to public schools and attended Roseville High School, where she was a Student Council Representative, President of the Future Teacher’s Club, a choir member and a varsity cheerleader. On a field trip with her parish teen group, Diane met the IHMs.

Diane was admitted as an undergraduate to Wayne State University. Instead of attending Wayne State on Sept. 9, 1957, she joined the IHMs. Her parents were stunned, yet they supported her. A blue habit and the opportunity to teach were not enough to

keep her in the convent. She left in 1958 and taught in the Warren schools. She had a boyfriend and when he asked her to marry him, she knew she couldn’t. She felt the call to

religious life, so she returned to the IHM Congregation June 16, 1963 and made her final profession May 9, 1970.

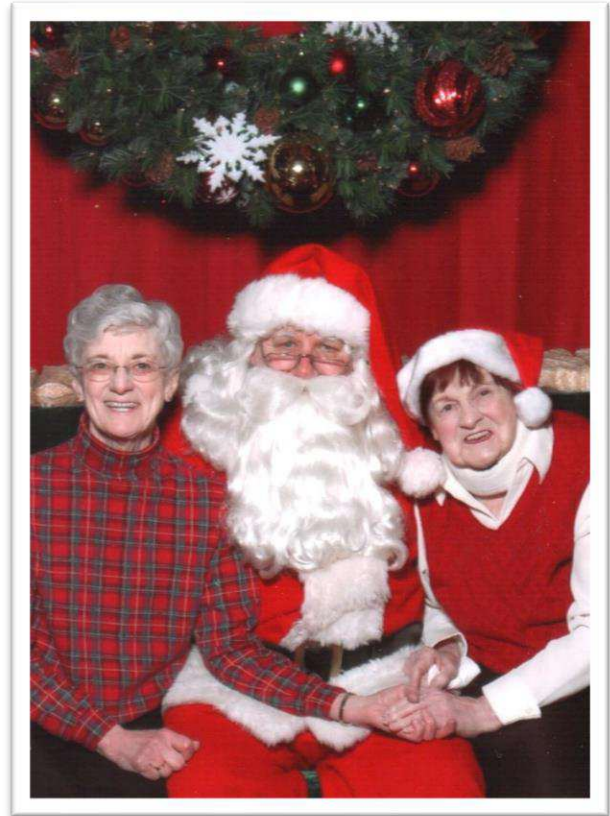


Between 1963-1980, Sister McCormack served as Assistant Principal and then Co-Principal with Joan Charnley at Marian High. Her fondest memories are her years at

St. Francis de Sales and St. Mary of Redford. She loved the students and was a class moderator each year.

She earned a degree in theology from Catholic Theological Union. While working on her thesis, Diane was elected a chapter delegate and vice president of the community.

In 1997, her IHM Sisters staged an intervention when they confronted her with her dependence on alcohol, food and exercise. Concerned for her well-being, they took her to Emmaus House, a treatment facility for sisters in Ocean Grove, N.J. There, she found her true authentic self with the help of a loving staff and Congregation who supported her. The intervention reconnected her to God, who loves her lavishly, extravagantly and unconditionally.



In 1998, Diane went to work in the Archdioceses Catholic School office of teacher personnel in Detroit. Later, she ministered as Spiritual Directress of Guest House in Lake Orion. She returned to Emmaus for a retreat and was invited to serve on the clinical staff as an addiction counselor. The most profound gift she had to offer the patients was her experience as an addict and a woman in recovery. After six years, the patient population declined and Diane returned to the Motherhouse.

She gracefully transitioned to the Senior Living Community. She said she did not come home to retire, rock in a chair or watch television. She is active and engaged, serving on the Spirituality and Tech Committees, volunteering at the Shoppe once a week and preaching at our Liturgy of the Word. Diane is grateful for the opportunity to be of service.