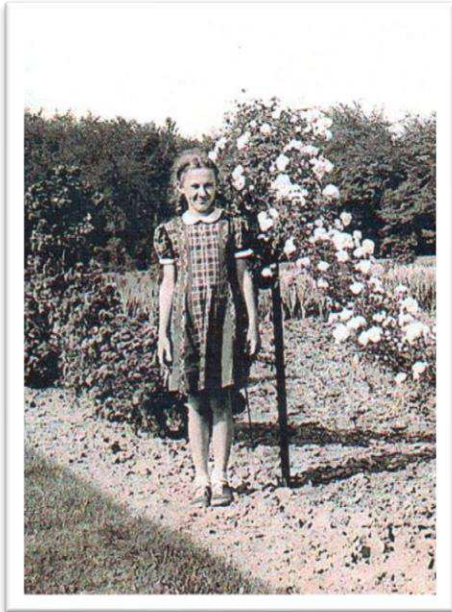


## Eva (Mary Neumann) Schoell, IHM



In one sense, I have always been part of the IHM community. My childhood home is the only lot that juts into the community property. I was the middle child of three girls. The community flower garden was behind our house, and my younger sister and I spent many hours helping Emil, the gardener. Sister Rose Vincent often worked in the garden, and we would help her in the shelling of tulip bulbs.

My father was an engraver and directed the choir at St. Mary Church for about 30 years. My mother was a wonderful full-time mother, teaching us in many ways, encouraging creativity and a love of nature. She was also very musical, so we all had the opportunity to take piano. I shifted to the marimba in high school.

Two things were critical factors in my decision to join the IHM community. One of my high school teachers said, “Did you ever think of coming across the campus?” The other factor was a large old-fashioned framed quote I saw outside the little chapel: “If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart.”

My ministry in the community began around 1950 at Immaculata High School in Detroit, where I taught music and continued to study it at Marygrove. I earned my bachelor’s degree from Marygrove and my master’s in music from DePaul University.

I went to St. Francis de Sales from Immaculata, where I taught fifth and seventh grades. Then I was sent to St. Boniface in Detroit and Sacred Heart, Roseville. Then I went to St. Mary in Lorain, Ohio, where I taught choral and fine arts for three years and served as principal. While I was there, the high school closed and a central high school – Lorain Catholic – opened. I served as the new school’s principal for about six years.

I had a year of renewal at Visitation and hoped to remain there and be trained in its ministry, but I was elected provincial for the Southeast Province. After my term of office, I took a year of renewal and training in retreat/spiritual direction at the





Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Pennsylvania. Then I joined the staff at Mercy Retreat Center in Madison, Connecticut. When a position opened at Visitation, I returned to Monroe, ministered there for five years, and then freelanced in retreat work for two years while living at St. Michael Convent in Monroe. The Crawfton coordinator position became available in 1995 and I took it with the provision that I could continue to give some retreats, one of which was weaving. I loved my 11 years of ministering at Crawfton!

My ministry is one of prayer and presence. I returned to Monroe in 2006 and for a year, I served as a retreat director and organized days of reflection. I retired in 2007 and became a volunteer.

My gentle spirit continues today. I always called others to be their best selves and to love what they do in Ministry. I am a "community woman."