

Joyce (Rose Anthony) Durosko, IHM

"I am here to gain knowledge of God and to serve the people."

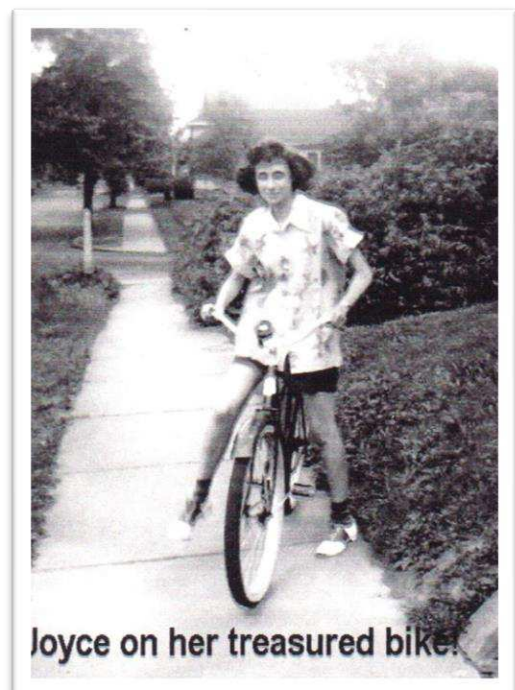


Sister Joyce's claim to fame growing up was that she is "Czechoslovakian, Catholic and a Democrat." Now add to that claim, she is an IHM celebrating her 75th jubilee in the community.

Her parents were hard workers. Her Mother managed the family's slim budget with the precision of a CPA; her father worked 42 years at

Firestone and never missed a day of work. He was a semi-pro golfer and sports buff, which is where she learned to love sports. In Akron, Ohio, she attended Immaculate Conception Elementary School, where the St. Joseph Sisters taught. The IHM Sisters educated her at St. Mary High School. During high school, she had excellent IHM teachers who instilled in her a keen sense of social justice and responsibility. It wasn't just their teaching skills that drew Sister Joyce to the community. She was fascinated as she witnessed such joy and happiness as well as their teasing and playing tricks on each other. She thought, "I want to be a part of this group!"

Other days were spent with her friends and her brother. She had to prove herself to hang out with the neighborhood boys, so she joined their snake club. She had to spot the snakes and carry them out of the woods to the garage. The boys prepared them for sale to a company that made purses and shoes. She would climb the trees and play in the stream catching frogs and pollywogs. There, she learned to love and appreciate the environment. It was there she had her first experience of God.



Joyce on her treasured bike.

Her 10 years in Wyoming on an Indian Reservation were most transformative for her. "It's not so much about what I did; it's what happened to me in between," she says. She had to grow bigger in her thinking. The Indigenous people had their own way of making decisions and Sister Joyce needed to listen, watch and learn to be effective. "I had to let go of my Type A management. I learned how to listen to people and invite them into a new educational vision." For the first time, Sister Joyce truly understood poverty. It is not about deprivation but sharing what little one has. The greatest endeavor for her was getting a new school and for the tribal people to own and operate it themselves.

Back in Michigan, she assisted in the consolidation of seven high schools in Flint, three high schools in Saginaw and then St. Mary Academy and Catholic Central in Monroe. She implemented Cardinal Maida's vision for Catholic formation at the Vicariate level. She also taught at the Hall of Divine Child, Monroe, St. Felicitas, Chicago and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Westchester, Illinois.

Sister Joyce is grateful that the IHM community educated, empowered and encouraged her to be more. She tries to tune into what the spirit is telling her from her own experiences and from other people.

