

Marcia (Marie Jeffrey) Andrews, IHM

“I’ve always thought whenever God speaks to us, we get the grace not to be afraid.” Sister Marcia Andrews

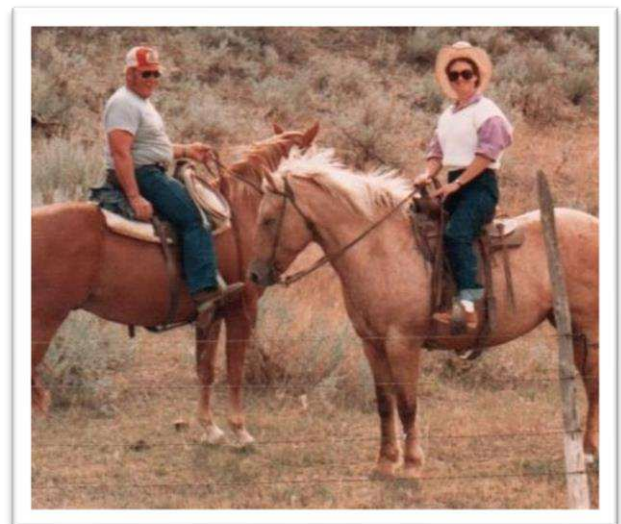


Sister Marcia Andrews got the call to enter the IHM community during her first year of college. Walking down the dorm hallway, she felt like “God just fell upon” her. “I was filled with love for God and experienced His love for me. This love for God superseded all else. People act nutty when they are in love and I was the same way.” Sister Marcia completed her freshman year, broke up with her boyfriend and joined the community in September.

She entered the community during Vatican II. When she entered, she had all the energy of a teenager. Her exuberance occasionally got her into trouble; she was sometimes reprimanded for talking too loudly, laughing too hard or having too much fun.

Her first mission was at Blessed Sacrament in Detroit, teaching first, second and third grades. She then taught third grade in Albuquerque, New Mexico for 10 years. Wanting to try something different, she moved to Socorro, New Mexico, where she went into pastoral ministry. “I tried to bring the spiritual formation to every ministry I was in contact with, bringing prayer, laying on of hands and blessed oil. I tried to bring a sense of spiritual calling to ministry.” From there, she spent eight years in Montana and a year as a Pastoral Administrator in the thumb of Michigan and a caregiver- a blessing!

She felt a keen sense of belonging. Women were especially drawn to her ministry and Sister Marcia gravitated toward supporting them. “I found the women thirst for spiritual depth the most.” She loved bringing about this spiritual awakening to her ministry. “I found great joy in ministry to women. And I was ministering to other ministers. I think I have given a workshop for every ministry in the parish, including for presider. That is the kind of teaching I love. God showed me that I had been given a charism for teaching. I found out it was to adults.”





Sister Marcia has witnessed God's presence many times in her life. There was a time when she was transitioning from one job to looking for another one when feeling assured of the job a door would close - this happened over and over again. Then one day, all of a sudden, her mother had a serious stroke. Of the six siblings, Sister Marcia was the only one available to immediately care for her mother, who did not wish to ever go to a nursing home. The "door closings" were then understood; the "right door" would be opening in its time. And so it did!

Today, she works as a volunteer with her sister at the Clinton County Baby Pantry. Reflecting on her time as an IHM, Sister

Marcia has never lost her passion for her work or her love for God; she continues to laugh as often as she did during her novitiate.