

Sister Alys Currier grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan, attending St. Philip School, taught by IHM Sisters.

She felt drawn toward religious life in high school but was considering the Carmelite Sisters. Although she's social, she likes solitude and she felt that "they seemed to suit my personality." With her mother's support, though, Sister Alys joined the IHM community. The instant she walked into the Motherhouse, a deep sense of peace told her she was in the right place.

Sister Alys laughs as she recalls the challenges encountered during her formation.

"You ask yourself why you did it, and you spend your life wondering how you ever got through it," she says. "But God works in the depths of you. Things can support or destroy it, but it comes from your depths."

Sister Alys's commitment is about faith. She describes it as "the actions that come out of the deepest part of you. Faith is not that you just accept everything. It's something that has to grow in you; that you have to question and challenge in yourself." Sometimes, she notes, "you make a mess of it, and the only way to get through it is to be humble."

Sister Alys started teaching her second year of novitiate at St. John in Monroe. Having no formal training, she got through it by "speaking softly. They kept quiet to see what I was saying." Through the years, she taught at Holy Redeemer and St. Agnes in Detroit, St. Charles (Coldwater), Sacred Heart (Auburn Hills), St. John Vianney (Highland Park), and Holy Name (Birmingham).

She studied for a master's degree in religious education. Still, she could not complete it because she was asked to be the director of religious education at St. Bede in Southfield, followed by serving as the director at St. Colman in Farmington Hills.

During that time, she attended classes to learn about Vatican II. She became certified as a director of religious education and experienced the difference between teaching adults and children. "The adults and I grew together; many became good friends. It was a very fruitful time in my life."

She took a year of renewal at Notre Dame, participating in a leadership program. Then Sister Alys served as a pastoral associate at St. Malachy in Sterling Heights, where she enjoyed the variety and working with people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Sister Alys' greatest joy since joining the community is being "given the opportunity for various ministries, which enabled me to share life with many wonderful people." Currently, she visits the sick, works in the Alphonsus Ligouri Library at the Motherhouse, gardens and sits on several Motherhouse committees.

"My life has been blessed," she says. My family, IHM community and ministry were mentors in which I experienced the presence and love of God. I'm deeply grateful for each person who has graced my life. I joyfully praise and thank God for the wonderful mystery of my life."