

"We are all called to be the best person we can be."

The seed for religious life was planted in Sister Margaret Alandt when she was chosen to be in a New York diocesan vocation procession in first grade. She came to know and love the IHM Sisters at school in Roseville, and although her mother wanted her to be a Dominican, her parents supported her decision to join the IHMs. Halfway through her sophomore year of college, Sister Margaret knew it was time to join. "Religious life is a lifestyle and I was called to this lifestyle," she notes. She wanted to give her life to the God she loved.

Her first mission was teaching first grade at St. Regis (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan), followed by ministry at St. Mary (Marshall, Michigan), and then St. Colman (Farmington, Michigan). She worked in the IHM business office for eight years while completing her master's degree in nonprofit administration from Notre Dame. Sister Margaret moved to North Carolina and ministered as deanery co-director of religious education for 11 parishes before feeling called to be with the people of El Salvador and Honduras. After much discernment, instead of leaving for Honduras, she was sent to Brazil to do pastoral work. She loved the people and culture. "It felt like home. The simplicity, the rootedness." She lived on a hill in a dwelling without running water. "I learned a new way to be. I experienced Church in a new way. I learned that there is more than one way of doing things." When she returned to the Detroit area to be near her aging parents, she laid the groundwork for Justice World and then as a pastoral administrator at St. Boniface Parish. She went on to work

part-time with Core City Neighborhood as an accountant and the Detroit Medical Society as co-director of Project Health On Wheels, which



provided primary health care in area churches. When both part-time positions began leading to full-time, Sister Margaret decided to remain the financial manager with Core City Neighborhood. She was struck by "what racism meant to people who meant something to me." She became involved with anti-racism activism and worked to develop programs for racism

awareness; she has been instrumental in anti-racism activities around Detroit and with OSP/IHM. "It is an awareness, to get us in touch



with our own reality, to recognize that racism has been a part of our story."

After Core City Neighborhood, Sister Margaret taught briefly and then ministered with West Detroit Interfaith Community Organization and MOSES, which engage in community organizing and development. She

served as IHM's novice director for three years before returning to MOSES. In 2012, she was elected to the IHM Leadership Council. Sister



Margaret currently ministers part-time at Allegria Village Senior Residence as pastoral minister. Sister Margaret is grateful for her experiences, relationships, education and spirituality. There is no way I could have envisioned all my experiences that have shaped my life and ministry, and each experience prepared me for the next."

MARGARET (MARY HOFBAUER) ALANDT