

“One ministry prepares you for the next.”

Sister Carolyn (William Mary) Campbell was born in Jackson, Michigan, the oldest of five. She grew up in a neighborhood with most of her extended family and the IHM Sisters taught her at St. John's Grade and High School. When she was about 10, she felt called to religious life, which she describes as “just knowing this is what I want to do with my life.” She knew she was where she belonged when she entered the IHM community. Sister Carolyn recalls the young women she entered with and their lasting friendships.

After her student teaching, she taught second grade at Epiphany, Detroit. She went to St. Regis (Bloomfield Hills), where she taught seventh grade. These experiences provided the skills and training for Sister Carolyn to teach junior high and become a principal in Puerto Rico. She was ministering in Puerto Rico (as a teacher and then as a principal) during Vatican II. While there, she returned to her baptismal name and began to wear street clothes.

After seven years, Sister Carolyn left Puerto Rico and studied for a year at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas. In 1976, she and two other IHM Sisters set up an office in New York for the overseas mission providence. In 1981, Carolyn moved to Florida to become principal of St. Michael in Miami. During the Christmas



break in 1988, she returned home to help care for her dying father. She returned to Miami to finish the school year and remained for one more year before returning to Michigan to be principal at St. Albert the Great.

She continued her education with a clinical pastoral education (CPE) program. She interned at Mercy Memorial Hospital in Monroe, which hired her as a chaplain once she had earned her CPE certification. She stayed for six



years before being elected to the IHM Leadership Council during the renovation of the Motherhouse. Her admiration for the sisters living there increased. “I admire them so much because they had to move from here to the Academy. We were in

very crowded conditions but were all in it together. It was a wonderful time of community. The spirit of sacrifice and working together seemed to

bring out the best in people. I got to know the sisters so well and appreciated all that they were and had done.”



Following her term in Leadership, she returned to Mercy Hospital. Since moving to the Motherhouse, she has continued using the skills she learned in CPE. Her ministry often brings her into contact with the medical community.