

I was born to my parents, Gloria and Hector, who raised me in Mexico City, the land of Aztecs, built in a valley surrounded by two beautiful volcanoes. Mexico City and its cosmopolitan, rich culture fed my Spanish and Mexican roots. I was the only child until my "little brother" Jose Alfredo came when I was 13.



of Guadalupe, and a church that provided sacraments and mystery. From an early age, I started to notice the contradictions. My love of learning has allowed me to explore alternatives. I am a woman of color and a naturalized citizen. My best fit is as a citizen of the world. I see so many

possibilities often at the margins of systems where creativity thrives. That is where I found IHM in 1992.

As a child, I lived in a house in the neighborhood of Coyoacán with a lush garden filled with walnut, orange, lime, fig, and apricot trees and beautiful flowers. It was a paradise where nature cared for me. I attended an all-girls school through high school, where I learned to love learning, particularly literature, science and languages: Spanish, English, Latin and French.



Life has gifted me with numerous experiences and opportunities for ministry, resulting in richness galore. I have been a teacher, campus minister, spiritual director, and pastoral minister. I have served in elected leadership and have worked with single mothers, elders, asylum seekers, and eco-

justice groups. More recently, I was part of Great Lakes Bioneers-Detroit for 17 years, working with numerous partners in Detroit to bring about a sustainable city and world.

When I was 18, I left it all behind to follow an opportunity to study in the U.S. at Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. My goal was to continue my language studies, adding biology and education, as I was planning to go back home to teach financially poor children. It was then that I received the invitation to become a woman religious. The life of the Mercy Sisters made sense. They witness a way of being educated women in service of others. It was an invitation to search for God and be about justice. I come from beans, rice, avocados, las Posadas at Christmas, Our Lady



Many opportunities to travel refined my love for history, music, literature and a diverse and rich world. Participating in the Fourth U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing has been one highlight. There is much more, but space is brief. I can summarize it all by sharing two favorite quotes: "Life creates conditions conducive to Life" from Biomimicry and "I came that you may have life and have it to the full" from John's Gospel, These say it well.