

Sister Margaret (Peggy) Schmidt has two older sisters. She grew up in Des Plaines, Illinois, where she was taught by the Franciscans and Mercy Sisters at St. Mary Grade School and St. Patrick Academy, respectively. She met the IHM Sisters at the Summer School of Catholic Action in Chicago. After working for several years to earn money, she attended Marygrove College and completed her bachelor's degree in economics. After graduation, she joined the IHM congregation in response to what she felt was a strong invitation to deepen her relationship with God and encourage others to do the same.



followed by ministry at the Archdiocese of Detroit as an assistant Vicar for Parishes to Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. She worked with parish councils and the formation of parish leadership. From there, she served in Madison, Wisconsin, as the director of diocesan education. She attended the Spiritual Integration Program during a sabbatical in Toronto while completing a master's degree in theology. She also took courses to become a spiritual director and participated in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises Institute in Guelph, Ontario. "We know our own experience of God. Spiritual direction invites people to pay attention and to listen deeply to themselves." She served as spiritual

Sister Peggy ministered in the Reading Clinic while she was a postulant and taught at St. Mary Academy as a novice and first-year scholastic. Then, she taught at Marian High School. She moved back to the Chicago area because of her ailing father and taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, Illinois. After a year, she attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where she received a Master of Arts in religious education.



director at Colombiere in Clarkston, Michigan, before ministering as director of formation at parishes in Aurora, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She then became the coordinator of Visitation House of Prayer for the next nine years. After a sabbatical year, she continued to offer directed retreats and spiritual direction and co-developed the IHM Events Planning office. Because Spiritual Direction was such a good fit for her ministry, Sister Peggy continued to accompany others in pursuit of their relationship with a loving God. As a "retired person" living

Sister Peggy returned to Marian, first as a teacher and then as assistant principal. This was post-Vatican II and she loved the changes. "We were ready for this," she notes. "We were there to be *with* people, not apart or on a pedestal. Our habits had signaled so clearly a separate kind of lifestyle, but then this changed. After Marian, Sister Peggy ministered in the IHM Social Justice Office and became involved with the women's movement and the first meetings about women's ordination. This was



at the IHM SLC, she continues to walk with others on their life journey. Since joining the community, Sister Peggy's greatest joy is the sense of openness to life as it unfolds. She is ever grateful for the opportunities, the care and support within the community for the continuing unfolding of herself.