

I was born to my parents, Thomas and Maxine, in Lansing, Michigan. My family also included two older siblings: my sister, Terry and my brother, Tom.



several years and took classes in speech and communication in the master's program at Wayne State University. I went on to teach junior high at St. Vincent's and then ministered as the elementary religious education director at St. Blase. I served at St. Mary, Royal Oak, for nine years as elementary education director and then as pastoral associate for another six. My ministry continued as a pastoral associate at St. Albert for three years.

When I turned six, my father was transferred to the east side of Detroit, where my journey with the IHM congregation began. I started first grade at St. Martin School and continued my education with the IHMs through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It was there during those high school years that I realized how much I desired to follow in my teachers' footsteps to become a teacher myself!



At this point, I decided to concentrate on just one area of ministry. I attended Madonna University and took classes in gerontology to serve older adults. After a four month sabbatical to care for a close friend, I was hired as a pastoral minister at Henry Ford Retirement Community, where I served for 21 years.

During my sophomore year, one of my IHM teachers invited me to consider entering the community upon graduation. I was intrigued by this invitation and promised her that I would think and pray about it. I shared this with my parents and they were very supportive.

Now, in retirement, I serve as a trustee on several boards that deal with senior adults and homeless at-risk youth. In all my years of ministry, it has been a privilege to have had so many people share their lives with me and trust me in friendship.

It was during my junior year that my family life was drastically affected by the unexpected death of my dad. I became angry with God and gave up any idea of entering religious life. However, over the next year, with the help of a special IHM teacher and the great encouragement from my mom, I decided to join the IHM community. I did my student teaching in the third and fourth grades at Holy Redeemer. After graduation, I taught second grade at Holy Trinity for



My IHM community has given me so many opportunities to grow in my relationship with God and how I live it out in my relationship with others. I am so grateful to have used my talents to "make a difference," hopefully wherever I have served.