

Sister Alys Currier grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan and attended St. Philip's School with eight siblings. This is where she met the IHM Sisters. In high school, she felt drawn to religious life and considered the Carmelite Sisters. She was social but liked solitude and felt "they seemed to suit my personality."



With her mother's support, she joined the IHM community; she said the instant she walked into the Motherhouse, a deep sense of peace told her she was in the right place.

Alys laughs when she recalls the challenges she encountered during her years in formation. She says, "You ask yourself why you did it and spend your life wondering how you ever got through it!" But she realizes that God works in the depths. Events can support or destroy the call, but it really comes from your depths. Alys said that her commitment is about faith. She describes it as, "the actions that come out of the deepest part of me. Faith is not that I just accept everything. It's something that has to grow in me; that I have to question and challenge myself. Sometimes . . . it is just so important to be humble."



She started teaching her second year of novitiate at St. John's in Monroe. Having no formal training as a teacher, she got through it by speaking softly. "The pupils kept quiet to see what I was saying." Through the years, she taught at Holy Redeemer and St. Agnes in Detroit, St. Charles (Coldwater), Sacred Heart (Auburn Hills), St. John Vianney (Highland Park), and Holy Name (Birmingham). Later, Alys studied for a master's degree in religious education. She could not complete it because she was asked



to be the DRE (director of religious education) at St. Bede in Southfield. This was followed by serving as the DRE at St. Colman in Farmington Hills. During this time, she attended classes to learn about Vatican II. She became certified

as a DRE and experienced the difference between teaching adults and children. "The adults and I grew together; many became good friends. It was a very fruitful time in my life."

Alys then took a year of renewal at the University of Notre Dame, participating in a leadership program. She went on to serve as a pastoral associate at St. Malachy in Sterling Heights for 21 years; she enjoyed the variety of working with people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Alys' greatest joy since joining the Community is "being given the opportunity for various ministries, which enabled me to share life with many wonderful people." Her current ministry is prayer and presence, and though her vision is poor, she has time for prayer and visiting the sick on the health care floors. "My life has been blessed," she says. My family, IHM community and ministry were my mentors with whom I experienced God's presence and love. I'm deeply grateful for each person who has graced my life. I joyfully praise and thank God for the wonderful mystery of my life."