

Christine (Christine Mary) Dobrowolski

I have always wanted to be an IHM Sister. I attribute it to the IHMs who taught at Holy Redeemer in Detroit.



During my 12 years there, IHMs offered us an excellent education. But what's more, they were happy. They loved us and one another. They were playful and prayerful, caring for the poor people in our neighborhood. My father was a member of the UAW and was often on strike. I know my family received food parcels from the IHMs when my parents struggled to feed us. After graduation, I entered the congregation.

and at a Catholic Worker house while working for Catholic Charities. Everywhere I went, I was deeply involved in social justice work.

I served as Novice Director in Monroe from 1988 to 1994 and then returned to the ministries I loved: social justice and life alongside the African American community. In North Carolina, I ministered at House of Mercy, a care facility for persons with end-stage HIV/AIDS. After that, I served as social justice minister at the Church of the Epiphany, a Louisville parish committed to living out the social teachings of the Church and the vision of Vatican II.



My IHM journey took me to Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago, where I taught primary grades and high school at IHM Westchester. After Vatican II, I was sent to Rome to study spirituality. Then, I was missioned to South Africa and Botswana to do formation and retreat work with African congregations of women religious. Upon my return, I served at

Visitation House of Prayer in Monroe, where I was involved in retreat work and spiritual direction. Then came a call to leadership: I served three years as Co-Provincial of the Northwest Province.



When my term ended, I took time off to pray and listen to where God was calling me. I felt called to live and work among those in greatest need. I moved to Memphis to work in low-income housing and then to New Orleans, where I lived in the projects

My eyes were opened to poverty and injustice as my IHM journey unfolded. Living among the poorest people in our country deepened my understanding of systemic injustice and fueled my hope for change. Everywhere I've been, I've worked with people who were willing to lay down their lives for others. They were signs of God's presence and willingness to take risks for the greater good, to make things better, regardless of personal cost. We prayed and worked to make a difference, to help one another do better and be better for the sake of God's people and our planet.

70 years