

Regina (Regina Irene) Fanning

It was a beautiful Sunday morning in July when I was born on the south side of Chicago. On Aug. 2, I was baptized by my uncle, Father Paul Nolan, as Nora Louise at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church.



I have always said I would like to relive my childhood because my parents made it such a glad time. I remember my mom as patient and gentle and my dad as always happy, with a great sense of humor. Both of my parents made each of their seven children feel special and often expressed pride in our accomplishments. After my dad's death, a copy of the

poem "I'm the Daddy of a Nun," which I had given to him, was among his treasures. I recall one night seeing my parents on their knees by their bed saying their nightly prayers. This practice, along with many others, was instilled in



us, teaching us to prioritize God, then the Church, then family and friends.

We grew up on the south side of Chicago as members of St. Felicitas Parish. I recall how much I enjoyed my years of education there with the



IHMs, who were great teachers and always seemed so joyful. My sister and I imitated these happy nuns. Donning bathrobes, with bath towels as "veils," we would teach neighborhood youngsters on the back steps of our home. My high school years brought thoughts of

various vocations, but I realized that God was calling me to give my life to God. After graduating from Loretta Academy, I left for Monroe in August 1949 to join the joyful IHMs.

With deep gratitude for the excellent IHM teacher training I received during my formation, I devoted my life to the ministry of Catholic education. My love of children made me a natural teacher; although most of my experience was teaching junior high, I also taught at every grade level. After teaching for many years in Michigan, I was delighted to return to my beloved Chicago at St. Felicitas, St. René, and St. Domitilla. While my good friend, Sister Dorothy Joyce, and I were teaching at St. Eulalia School, they moved to the IHM convent in Westchester.

I am fully retired and living at the Motherhouse with my fellow sisters. I have had a wonderful life. This year, I am celebrating 75 years as an IHM Sister, which brings me gratitude for the countless blessings I have received, including opportunities for spiritual growth, fulfilling my dreams as an educator, sharing life with wonderful sister friends, and the privilege of caring for my mom when needed. I am grateful for everything!

75 years