

Marie (Marie George) Miller

Looking back at my 70 years as an IHM, I experience deep gratitude and awe at how my life unfolded. I was born into a loving family, the fifth of seven children. My parents, George Miller and Marie Kersting, were hardworking, loving, attentive and deeply religious, though not in an extreme way. I had three brothers and three sisters and even as adults, we had good times together. We attended Catholic school. In my senior year at Dominican High, I sensed a restlessness and felt called to explore religious life, following



in the footsteps of my sister, Alice, who had entered the IHM two years prior. This decision was extremely difficult for my parents.



In 1954, I entered Monroe wholeheartedly—but it was a real

culture shock. I tried to embrace this new life but missed my family so much. Gradually, I adapted to this life, blessed during formation with extended time for prayer, great teachers and a firm foundation in theology. Jesus became a real friend and my love grew. My first mission was at St. Charles in Detroit, where I taught second grade. Then, Gesu—seventh grade and Columban, eighth grade. After four years at St. Columban, I was assigned as

superior and principal at St. Hugo of the Hills. I was overwhelmed, being only 29 years old. We were a relatively youthful community and

had many laughs. I sensed a passion for mission here and ministry was paramount in my life. I learned so much from the people, the teachers, my IHM Sisters, and the students. During six summers of my nine years at St. Hugo, I co-directed Camp Stapleton, a St. Vincent DePaul camp for inner-city girls. Camp Stapleton was a great ministry with God's poor and a good balance between the materially gifted at St. Hugo.

In 1983, I answered a call to ministry in Africa. I was part of an educational development team for adults in the Diocese of Mombasa, Kenya for four years. Through this experience of helping people develop their own truth and leadership skills, my eyes and heart were opened to the beauty of other cultures. Working with a team of four Kenyan men and a Maryknoll Sister was a broadening cross-cultural experience. After my years in Kenya, I was asked to serve as a Novice Director for IHM Sisters. Following my time with the novices, I served as a pastoral associate at St. Hilary Parish for 34 years. Our IHM vision of working with the poor, developing lay leadership and encouraging adult spirituality was put to use in a special way. When the parish closed, I volunteered in pastoral care at Ascension Hospital in Warren, Michigan. In 2024, I returned to the Motherhouse and used my time in prayer, chaplaincy and service. What a gift to be with women who fiercely love one another and the world.



70 years