

Anne Marie (Felice) Murphy

I entered the IHM Congregation in 1964. I attended Holy Name Grade School and Marian High School, which provided me with 10 years of exposure to the IHMs' academic competency and cheerful encouragement in both scholastic and social events. I had good ideas about improving curriculum and student options, expecting one day to become a principal or a well-regarded teacher. However, exposure to the grade school classroom quickly corrected my expectations. I was reassigned to Marian High School, where I had a better rapport with the students.

During formation training, a Red Cross spokesperson addressed our college group and introduced the concept of setting up emergency shelters. The idea of providing practical assistance with agency oversight appealed to me. I began seeking opportunities to join a service team and treat elderly or chronically ill patients with respect and encouragement. When it came time for final vows, the congregation offered a year of renewal that included spiritual direction and service to IHM projects. My time at the IHM infirmary helped me realize that nursing was a service where I could grow.

One of my placements during the renewal year was at a L'Arche community in Stratford, Ontario. This brief but intense immersion deepened my understanding of community building and increased

my sensitivity toward people with disabilities.

Back in Detroit, I lived for a year in a house the congregation had opened for sisters with mental health challenges. I worked as a nursing assistant while continuing my studies. In 1979, after completing my nursing degree, I began working on the second floor of the infirmary. I then moved to Syracuse, NY, to live in a community with five residents, three of whom had disabilities.

I worked at Upstate Medical Center, where I experienced community—supported staff members and witnessed Gospel values. After

completing a master's degree in nursing, I began working in the Alphonsus Liguori Library. I later earned a master's in library science and have been the library director since 2015.

Living in humility and simplicity continues to challenge me. The attention given to the liturgical year provides a framework for cultivating faithfulness to virtue and fostering a more profound reverence for Scripture. I am deeply grateful for the formal and informal education I have received, the beauty of the surroundings, and the congregation's emphasis on respecting creation and mitigating climate change.

