

Judy (Celine Therese) Weirick

As I reflect on my 70 years as an IHM Sister, my heart is filled with gratitude to God, my parents, my two sisters and my IHM community. I was born in Akron, Ohio and attended St Mary's Catholic School for 12 years. During my junior and senior years, one of my IHM teachers reminded me to listen to what God was asking of me. I had some phenomenal women who were not only great teachers but also enjoyed their work. The sisters' commitment to ministry and their warmth



appealed to me. I grew up spending time with them after school, becoming very comfortable in their presence. This close connection drew me to the community. This appealed to me, and I thought it must be what God intended for me to do with my future.



On Sept. 7, 1954, my parents drove me to Monroe so I could begin my life as an IHM. After my formation years, I was missioned to teach at St. Thomas Aquinas in Dearborn and later became the principal at St. Charles in Newport, Michigan. While there, I received word that my mother was seriously ill. I asked if there was an opening in the Ohio area where I could assist my family in caring for her.



I enjoyed many happy years as a teacher and then principal at St. Mark's School in Cleveland, Ohio. I knew then that I felt called to minister in pastoral care. After completing my training in CPE, I was blessed to be hired by the Sisters of Charity as Vice President for Mission and Ministry at St. John's West Shore Hospital in Cleveland. Those were years of growth and blessing as I fulfilled my dream of providing pastoral care. When I knew it was time for semi-retirement, I ended my years at the hospital but began a volunteer ministry as a part-time chaplain at several local nursing homes.

After almost 70 years, I now consider Monroe my home, where I continue to do what I love: serving as a part-time chaplain to our retired sisters and residents. I will always be grateful to God and my IHM community for the many opportunities and blessings I have experienced as an IHM Sister. I ask for God's blessings on the many people who have touched my life throughout my years of ministry, especially the women who invited me to places I might never have chosen to go. I am also grateful for the companionship of my IHM Sisters.

My greatest joy was touching so many lives over the years and how these people, in turn, have enriched mine.