

Our retired sisters remain deeply committed to their calling. Through prayer, spiritual guidance and a variety of ministries, they continue to serve, offering support to others in many ways. Their commitment to faith and mission persists, demonstrating that ministry is not bound by age but is an enduring passion for service.

Many of our retired sisters live independently, while others require skilled care, memory care or assisted living services. The cost of providing care varies by level of need.

COSTS SHOWN PER MONTH PER SISTER

A secure, supportive environment for a sister with memory loss:

\$7,361

Assisted living—where sisters maintain independence with health care support:

\$11,406

Skilled nursing care:

\$11,771

Supporting sisters who live independently:

\$2,241

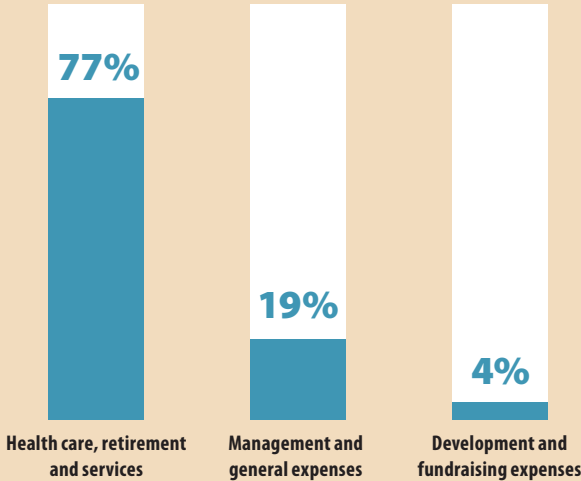
As the cost of health care and living costs rise, the IHM congregation faces growing financial challenges. **Please consider a gift to this year's retirement appeal. Your contribution directly supports sisters who have given decades of service.** We rely on your generosity and loyal support to help bridge the gap between our financial resources and the actual cost of retirement.

Currently, there are **173** sisters in the congregation.

102 retired sisters live at the Motherhouse. Their median age is **87** and all of those sisters are between **72** and **100**.

71 active and/or retired sisters reside in the communities they serve.

**IHM CONGREGATIONAL EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2025**



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2025 IHM SISTERS RETIREMENT APPEAL

“Retirement is a time to harvest all the pieces of your life with gratitude, and know more deeply how much there is yet to discover. Life is rich and fulfilling, and it continues to challenge!”

— SISTER EILEEN (DE LA SALLE) SEMONIN
(1926 - 2024)



Retirement does not end our sisters' ministries; it simply transforms the way they serve. Our retired sisters continue to offer their gifts as:

- Special advocates for children and seniors
- Spiritual directors
- Lectors and Eucharistic ministers
- Armchair activists for justice and peace
- Tour docents
- Chaplains
- Advocates against human trafficking
- Office assistants
- Health care volunteers
- Jail ministers
- Nursing home volunteers
- Substitute teachers
- Tutors
- Medical appointment companions
- Video technicians
- Mail sorters
- Readers for the visually challenged
- Seamstresses
- Shoppe volunteers
- Writers
- Service office volunteers
- Committee and board members
- Prayer leaders
- Funeral and Remembering coordinators
- Gardeners
- Sacristans and Chapel ambiance
- Librarians
- Grant writers

Born and raised in Battle Creek, Michigan, **SISTER Alys** first met the IHM Sisters

at St. Philip School. Drawn by both their teaching and their joyful presence, she chose to join the IHM community. “The moment I entered the Motherhouse, I felt a deep sense of peace, confirming I was in the right place,” she said.



Sister Alys (Gerontia) Currier

Guided by faith and humility, she describes it as “the actions that come out of the deepest part of me. Faith is not that I just accept everything. It’s something that has to grow in me; that I have to question and challenge in myself. Sometimes it is just so important to be humble.”

At just 20 years of age, she began teaching first grade at St. John Catholic School in Monroe, Michigan. “I got through it by speaking softly,” she said. “They kept quiet just to hear what I was saying.” That unexpected call launched a teaching ministry throughout Michigan, spanning decades at Holy Redeemer and St. Agnes in Detroit, St. Charles in Coldwater, Sacred Heart in Auburn Hills, St. John Vianney in Highland Park and Holy Name in Birmingham.

Later, she served as director of religious education at St. Bede Parish in Southfield and St. Colman Parish in Farmington Hills. For 21 years she served as pastoral associate at St. Malachy in Sterling Heights, forming RCIA programs, visiting the sick, aiding the homeless and supporting parents of LGBTQ children. Pastoral ministry was her favorite.

On August 10, Sister Alys celebrated her 100th birthday! She remains remarkably active in the community. Each morning, you will find her checking the house schedule for upcoming meetings and events. She also enjoys visiting her sisters in health care and taking daily walks. “Whatever comes up, I do what I can,” she says.

SISTER MARGARET’S call to religious life began in first grade. Halfway through her sophomore year of college, she knew it was time to join. “Religious life is a lifestyle, and I was called to this lifestyle,” she said.

Her first teaching assignments were in Michigan, at St. Regis in Bloomfield Hills, St. Mary’s in Marshall, followed by religious education at



Sister Margaret (Mary Hofbauer) Alandt

St. Colman Parish, Farmington Hills. She worked eight years in the IHM business office while earning her master’s degree in nonprofit administration from University of Notre Dame. She moved to North Carolina, serving as deanery co-director of religious education for 11 parishes. She was then sent to Recife, Brazil, where she served the local community as a pastoral minister. She fondly remembers, “It felt like home. I loved the people and their culture.”

Returning to Detroit, Sister Margaret worked at Groundwork for a Just World and then served as pastoral administrator at St. Boniface Parish.

When the parish closed, she remained in the community, serving as co-director of Project Health on Wheels with the Detroit Medical Society, then as financial manager with community organizations; Core City Neighborhoods, WDIFCO—West Detroit Inter-Faith Community Organization, MOSES—Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength and later Compassionate Companions. Having witnessed racism firsthand, she developed anti-racism programs to raise awareness in Detroit.

Sister Margaret served as IHM novice director, was elected to the IHM Leadership Council in 2012, and then worked in Dearborn, Michigan, as pastoral minister at Henry Ford Village and Allegria Village Senior Residence.

Although retired, Sister Margaret serves as an IHM Community Life Liaison. Reflecting on her journey, she is grateful for her experiences, relationships, education and spirituality. “There is no way I could have envisioned all my experiences that have shaped my life and ministry, and each experience prepared me for the next.”

As a child, **SISTER MARGARET MARY, “Peg,”** was known for her smiles which she secretly attributed to learning from a church publication that the Trinity dwells inside us! As the oldest of five boys and two girls, she imagined she would marry and have a big family herself, but another call drew her heart. Upon graduation from Immaculata High School, Detroit, she entered the IHM congregation. Sister Peg’s world expanded when she was missioned as a teacher in Michigan and Ohio, teaching at both grade school and high school levels. She also ministered at Visitation House of Prayer, located on the IHM campus, served as a pastoral minister in North Carolina,

Although Sisters Margaret and Peg are retired and both in their 80s, they began a new ministry last year! As IHM Community Life Liaisons, they offer a ministry of presence to sisters living in the Motherhouse. They support sisters in matters related to their daily life and mission as members of the congregation, while nurturing the values and sense of community that define the IHM congregation.

Working closely with mission councilors, resident services, pastoral care and health care staff, Sisters Margaret and Peg assist with the transition and orientation of new sister residents. They welcome newcomers by focusing on the spirit of IHM, showing care, helping with daily needs and connecting them to in-house opportunities.

They provide a listening presence at monthly resident meetings and independent living “neighborhood” meetings, attending to concerns and needs that are raised. Attentive both to individual sisters and the community as a whole, they ensure that nothing is overlooked.

In many ways, their ministry reflects the spirit of the retired sisters living in the Motherhouse, bringing community together, respecting all residents and tending to the charism of the IHM congregation.



Sisters Margaret (Mary Hofbauer) Alandt and Margaret Mary “Peg” (Cornelia) O’Shea



Sister Margaret Mary “Peg” (Cornelia) O’Shea

worked as secretary of the Mission Province in Monroe, and taught Alphonsian spirituality to young Redemptorist candidates in St. Louis, Missouri. Sister Peg’s commitment to the poor led her to more than 30 years of mission in South Africa. She served in a variety of ministries, supporting HIV/AIDS outreach and services for abused children, parish pastoral ministry and as principal of St. Joseph

Preschool in Howick. Her staff at St. Joseph’s included Hindus, Muslims and Christians – a broadening experience that taught her the importance of prayer, fasting, and concern for the poor in every faith. Sister Peg said, “Thanks to smartphone apps, I stay in touch with my former staff. I find peace in knowing that my successors are continuing the ministry among the poor.” Upon retirement and return to the Motherhouse in 2023, Sister Peg found again a family atmosphere. Her new ministry, serving alongside Sister Margaret Alandt, as Community Life Liaison, gives her another opportunity to feel at home with a big family of people who share her values, IHM values.