

Alice (Raphaela) Baker

This 2026 reflection continues my lifelong call-and-response with all that God has given me, especially over the past 10 years since my 60th Jubilee in 2016. The 2024 Chapter Direction has deeply strengthened my trust in Providence and continues to nurture my enduring love for one another and for our world.

When my 55 years in formal education ministry concluded in 2015, my way of serving changed as well. Through prayer and discernment, I have sought to respond to God's call both personally and communally in four meaningful ways.

First, my Mission Circle of 15 years, The Mosaics, transitioned into a new form of community. I now journey with a group of IHM Sisters and Associates, primarily from the east side of Metro Detroit. As co-journeers, we gather and support one another, sometimes regularly and sometimes spontaneously, sharing our concerns and issues.

Second, a new volunteer ministry emerged in 2020 through the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance. I was invited to help establish a center for individuals returning from prison. From this effort, Friends of Returning Citizens (FORC) was born. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we have served more than 250 individuals and are supported by a part-time office manager. Currently, as a board member, I am involved in efforts to

secure a new space after severe flooding last July. We believe there is a great need for our services and rely on God's help to continue our work.

Third, I have felt called to accompany IHMs and their family members as they navigate physical or emotional transitions. This ministry often takes simple, practical forms — providing transportation to medical appointments or assisting with moves into new living spaces. I have grown into this form of service just by being present with them in their time of need.

Finally, woven through all of these experiences is my deep commitment to justice and peace. Through my involvement with the IHM Healing Racism committee and Pax Christi Marygrove, I remain connected to others who are dedicated to the ongoing work of peace and reconciliation.

With gratitude for all who have been part of my journey, I give thanks — especially to God, who is my life.

