

James Marian Sarchet

I was born in Detroit during the Great Depression and baptized at Precious Blood Church. My parents, Fred and Ila, had three children: my brother James Fred, born just before me; my sister Ila Mae, born four years later; and me. After losing our home during the Depression, we moved to southwest Detroit and became members of All Saints Parish, where all three of us attended All Saints School.

Ours was a very musical family. My father owned music stores, led a square dance orchestra and served as organist at his Presbyterian church. My mother gave piano lessons and taught each of us to play. In fifth grade, I began studying violin with an IHM music teacher. Music filled our home through sing-alongs, family performances and square dancing.

My brother Jimmy and I were especially close, but he became ill and died of cancer at age 14. His death deeply affected me and for a time, I developed a stutter. I loved school and admired the IHM Sisters who taught me. Math was my favorite subject, and I often helped classmates with their work. When I discovered a pamphlet titled *Teaching for God*, I knew I was called to become an IHM Sister.

I entered the community after graduating in 1950 and was received in 1951, taking the name Sister James Marian — James in memory of my brother and Marian in honor of our Blessed Mother.

My first assignment was third grade at St. Joseph School in Erie, Michigan. Over the years, I taught elementary, junior high and high school, primarily in math, science, and choral music. I especially loved teaching geometry and found great joy in my students' success in science fairs and choral competitions.

In the 1980s, I became involved in the Charismatic Renewal and joined the Light of Revelation Prayer Group in Monroe, where I played guitar for many years. This experience deepened my prayer life.

After retiring, I took a sabbatical and discovered a love for crafts, beginning with dollhouse building. I later served for more than 25 years as a driver for the Motherhouse Sisters, tutored students in math, sang "The Exsultet" at the Easter Vigil, cantered, played violin in the sisters' orchestra, assisted with technology and continued woodworking and creative projects, such as making Celtic crosses and practicing Swedish weaving.

I am deeply grateful for all I have received from the IHM congregation and have sought to use my gifts in service of God's Kingdom. God be praised.

