

June (Richardine) Johnson

Reflecting on my life, I am grateful for all that has come my way.

A significant moment in my life came at age 16 with the unexpected death of my dad, Richard. My mom, Eileen, raised 17 children while also managing the farm. She was an important spiritual role model for me and lived to be 104. For many years, I went home every weekend to be with her and care for her. That's what I learned from watching her raise our family — you were present. Life on the farm also brought me very close to nature, and I still love to be outside walking.

I grew up in Goodells, Michigan, and attended public school until seventh grade. I then transferred to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Emmett, where I stayed through 10th grade. After a year at Yale High School, I completed my senior year at St. Stephen's in Port Huron. During that time, I realized I wanted to join the IHM community.

I was drawn to the joy of the IHM Sisters and their deep commitment to education. When they taught, they meant business. My calling felt like a gift from God —something I was meant to do — and I followed it. That sense of responding to what was given has stayed with me throughout my life.

During my formation years, I worked in the IHM Motherhouse infirmary. I then began teaching primary grades at St. Mary in Monroe, starting what

would become a 50-year ministry in education. I taught at St. Cecilia in Detroit, St. John in Fenton, SS. Peter and Paul in Ruth, St. Regis in Bloomfield Hills, St. Dennis in Royal Oak, and concluded my teaching ministry at Holy Redeemer in Detroit. I am grateful for the many children I was privileged to teach.

I also had the opportunity to take a sabbatical year, including a 100-day renewal retreat in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was a deeply renewing experience for my spirit, and I was especially moved by the landscape's beauty.

In retirement, I volunteered with Compassionate Companions, a guardianship agency, visiting clients in healthcare facilities. Once again, I simply did what needed to be done when a need arose. During this time, I lived at the IHM Novitiate in Wyandotte, serving as a companion to women in formation. In 2017, I moved to the Riverview community, where I appreciated the care we shared for one another.

In 2020, I moved to the Motherhouse, first to assisted living and now to the McGivney Way Memory Care unit. One staff member was once asked how she would describe me, and she said, "She is a sweetheart with a good sense of humor, and her smile is infectious and makes my whole day!"



70 years