

Lenore (Lenore Marie) Pochelski

It appears my life has been more predictable than I would have thought. My mom was a strong advocate of learning. My dad spent much of his life mentoring tradesmen. So, it follows that while growing up in Chicago, playing school was natural. My two younger sisters and neighborhood pals were my students as I taught lessons and craft projects. Colored chalk and pink erasers were plentiful! It was almost natural for me to join the IHMs, a community of vibrant women educators. It was what I was practicing and preparing for in my basement classroom! What wasn't natural was the taking on a "religious life."

My entire ministry has been spent in formal education in the Archdiocese of Detroit: St. Rose, Detroit; Sacred Heart, Roseville; St. Matthew, Detroit; Hall of the Divine Child, Monroe; Beahan Jr. High, Farmington; and Marian HS, Bloomfield Hills. Naturally, my involvement included local and civic involvement, Vicariate, AOD committee work, and several years on the AOD Executive Athletic Board. Along the way, I remained steadfast in my involvement in congregational efforts, including the Southeast Provincial Council, Coordinating Council, Master Campus Plan Committee, Mission and Unit Reps, Royal Blue Classic planning committees, Marygrove Board of Directors, Process Oversight Committee, and SSIHM Charitable Trust.

60 years



In July 2023, I formally stepped away from Marian after 31 years as an administrator to 'do mission' in a different way, ever-conscious of my IHM-ness: "remaining faithful to our roots, we continue to educate and serve in a variety of ways." I've had the opportunity to volunteer weekly at the Ladies of Charity food pantry and to serve as a "sub," official go-fer and lunch lady at Detroit Cristo Rey. In March 2025, I joined the DCR Board of Trustees during a leadership transition, giving me the opportunity to work with the school staff in the President's absence. I've also been entrusted to serve on the Academy Advisory Committee during this time of repurposing the building and property. In June 2025, I joined the St. Mary Catholic Central Board of Directors. These new challenges, along with my continued involvement in our SSIHM Charitable Trust, keep my mind, heart and body balanced and fulfilled!

What's next? Only God knows ... if it fits my skill set, naturally I'm in! A clear eye on MISSION guides my involvement, while purposefulness becomes my focus. I continue to be especially grateful for my education at IHM HS (Westchester, Illinois) and Marygrove and for the opportunity to serve our God in meaningful and practical ways. It has become natural for me to put my efforts and energy into advancing our mission, "especially in spaces longing for liberation."

An old "holy" card of mine says so much: to believe in God is to know that all the rules will be fair and that there will be wonderful surprises! I know I have experienced wonderful surprises and learned that you don't have to wear religion on your sleeve to be an IHM! P.S. I'm also happy for the opportunity to check bartender off my bucket list!

