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We can name many reasons to say no, and yet the deeper truth is the enduring yes — drawing us from our beginnings into the present and forward into the future. My story begins with an invitation to be baptized in the Catholic community. I said yes. I entered SS. Peter and Paul for my last two years of high school, where I met the IHM Sisters. In that short time, I witnessed and experienced IHM's kindness, care and encouragement. At graduation, I received two invitations — one to



join the Army and one to join the IHM community. I said yes to the IHMs.



After five years in formation, I received an invitation to go to Minnetonka, Minnesota. I said yes and I remain

deeply grateful. IHM ran a K-6 school that encouraged experiential learning. We did not communicate with parents via report cards, but rather through parent-teacher conferences. This approach strengthened parents' roles in their children's education and fostered generous, kind support for the school.



I received another invitation to be the principal at IHM. Again, I said yes. It was a time of deep learning and collaboration with educators committed to excellence. What is often called "Minnesota nice" became, for me, a spiritual reality — people caring for one another and sharing their gifts for the common good.

After 15 years, I was invited to Ohio for a renewal year. I lived in a farmhouse built in 1858, set among acres of corn and soybeans, with a sister from another community. Our neighbors, members of a simple Christian community

known as the Dunkers, lived in a way reminiscent of the Amish and Mennonites. Their lives reflected the Beatitudes — marked by simplicity, humility and reverence for all creation.

From that experience emerged a guiding spirit I call a "BE-Attitude": Be humble. Walk into the everyday, pause and embrace the moment. Sense the beauty, the gift in the ordinary. Be a seeker of justice. Live to understand harmony, to be one with others, filling the world with a beautiful chant.

Having a BE-Attitude is living the beatitudes. Returning to education in Dayton, Ohio, I carried this spirit with me. My prayer became: "My dear Creator God, lead me, guide me, show me the way." In one school, I learned to listen deeply to faculty and staff, allowing shared vision and creativity to flourish. In another, I returned to the classroom, accompanying seventh graders with care and encouragement. In a third, serving in the Black community, I was called again to a BE-Attitude: to be gentle, attentive and open to connection.

In the years that followed, being my mother's caregiver, serving in IHM Leadership and now, I am learning and living a BE-Attitude: Be filled with great joy in being part of the prophetic and mystical heritage of being. Through it all, the yes continues.