

## IHM Sisters - Then and Now

October 2008

### Sister Geraldine (Rose Philip) Demech, IHM



"Teaching children to read, to see letters turn into words, the word click with the brain and then see them run out the door (saying) 'I can read!'" This is how Sister Gerry (Rose Philip) Demech's describes her most gratifying experience.

"I firmly believe that if a child learns how to read...they can teach themselves anything they want to learn."

From 1955 to 1997 Sister Gerry taught primary school at several Monroe and Detroit area schools. the Hall of Divine Child, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Glen Mary, Minn., and at St. Matthews in Detroit.

Sister Gerry cared very little for the computer when it arrived in the classroom in the 1980s. Her principal came to her one day and commented that she wasn't getting her students on the computer often enough. Her reply? "I have to teach them how to read and spell *first*."

Sister Gerry came home to the Motherhouse in 1997. She has helped in the sacristy, served as a volunteer driver, distributed mail and worked in arts and crafts.

She enjoys sketching and writing haiku, which is how she writes in her journal.

Sister Gerry is currently reading *Sacred Space: The Prayer Book for 2008*, daily meditations on finding God each day.

Although she realizes she can't bring peace to the whole world, she understands she can bring peace to every person she meets each day.

"I try to meet everyone, hopefully, with kindness and a smile," says Sister Gerry. "I pray each day that I look in the right places to find Jesus and that I bring Jesus to other people in my dealings with them."

"As you get older, religion doesn't get more complicated--it gets simpler as you get down to basics."

