

IHM Sisters - Then and Now

March 2009



Sister Marie (Raynora) Hopkins, IHM, Ed.D., was born in Flint, Mich. She was educated by IHM Sisters for 12 years at St. Michael's.

"I decided in first or second grade that I would be a sister," she recalls. "Although I also went through stages of wanting to be a trapeze artist, ball player and toe dancer, my real goal always remained the same."

Sister Marie entered the IHM community after high school. She earned her bachelor's degree from Marygrove College and quickly found her calling - working with young children. While earning master's and doctorate degrees in education from Wayne State University, she

taught at St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. - kindergarten in the morning, and fifth and sixth grades in the afternoon. After more than six years at St. Hugo, she taught kindergarten for two years at Gesu, Detroit, and for five years at St. Felicitas, Chicago.

But Sister Marie's lasting legacy was at Marygrove College where she spent 35 years. Her roles included teacher - of both young children and students at the college level coordinator of the Child Development program. Sister Marie initiated an associate's degree in child development and a master's degree in early childhood education; served as the chair of the Education Department, as the interim graduate dean and as a student academic advisor.

The Marygrove Preschool closed in 1979. Although retired, Sister Marie taught at Madonna University and researched and wrote *The Marygrove College Preschool Story*.

She officially retired to the IHM Motherhouse in 2004 but she stays busy. She works two half days per week in the IHM Archives; serves on the IHM Education Committee; is mentoring a new employee and an IHM Associate; and spends time visiting sisters who are ill.

In spite of her many activities, Sister Marie has been able to increase her time for quiet prayer and reflection.

"I'm a 'traditionalist' in my quest for God through my devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the rosary," she notes. "And, of course, reading spiritual material offers wonderful insight."



Sister Marie enjoys exploring places of interest in and around Monroe, entertaining company and reading. Her literary tastes are eclectic, ranging from *The Gift of Years*, by Joan Chittister, OSB, to *The Associate*, by John Grisham.

"I have always felt I am a spoiled child of God," Sister Marie reflects. "And I have always been grateful for my family, vocation, health, friends and now being back at the Motherhouse where I started.

"I'm grateful I can, as Joan Chittister says, 'continue becoming, as this is the time of coming home to the self.'"