

IHM Sisters Then and Now

February 2010



Sister June (Marie Rene) Denne, IHM, came from a family of five boys and two girls. She was taught by the Adrian Dominican Sisters in Detroit for the first eight years of school. Then she went to high school at Holy Redeemer, where she was taught by IHM Sisters.

In 1941, two weeks after graduating from high school, she entered the IHM congregation, much to her parents' disappointment. They wanted her to join the Adrian congregation because the Dominican Sisters were allowed to go home and visit family – the IHMs were not permitted to do so at that time.

Her first teaching assignments were at St. Michael's in Flint and St. Martin in Detroit. When World War II started, the Motherhouse needed to replace employees who left to join the armed services, so she volunteered to come home and work. She did laundry for the next four years.

When the war ended she went back to teaching math, history and geography to elementary students from 1949 to 1972 at St. Boniface, St. Raymond and Our Lady of Good Counsel in Detroit; St. Philip in Battle Creek; St. Monica in Mobile, Ala.; Hall of the Divine Child in Monroe; Gesu in Detroit; St. Matthew in Flint and served as principal at St. Mary in Mt. Morris, Mich.

Sister June enjoyed teaching and described herself as a disciplinarian. She was also a “boys teacher” because she took an interest in their sports and often participated in games with them.

“I attended their sporting events and they liked that I took an interest in seeing them play. Most nuns took an interest in the girls' activities, but I liked the sports.” She often served as an umpire, “because I was fair,” she recalls.



For the next 28 years her ministry took her to Florida. There she worked on the staff of the Human Development and Social Concern Office in Lewiston. She also directed religious education in Bonita Springs and Naples, and ministered in elder care in Naples.

In 2000 Sister June came back to Monroe to receive health care. In 2003 she retired to the Motherhouse.

“I am very proud of the years I gave to community. I was strong and healthy at that time. But here we get such good care. We are never in need for anything.”