

## IHM Sisters - Then and Now

April 2010



Sister Gloria (Roberta Marie) Glinski, IHM, sees her life of ministry in three distinct phases.

"During my formative years in the IHM community, I embarked on a path of lifelong learning, even though my first ministry was to teach," she says.

Sister Gloria completed her education courses during the second year of her novitiate. She was assigned to teach second grade at St. Joseph School in Monroe. "I was ecstatic," she remembers. "My head was in the clouds. I don't think my feet touched the ground that year! I had a great deal of support from the other teachers and from my mentor, Sister Florent Gillet."

Over the next 36 years, Sister Gloria taught in grades one through six, including at our [School of the Month](#), St. Stephen, Port Huron, Mich.

"Classes were large at St. Stephen. I had 62 second-graders that first year," she notes. "I also taught religious education at Croswell, about 15 miles northwest."

Other teaching assignments took her to St. Boniface and Our Lady of Good Counsel in Detroit; St. Philip, Battle Creek; St. Thomas, Ann Arbor; St. John, Jackson; St. Michael, Flint; and St. Rene, Chicago.

"My final teaching ministry was at Holy Name School in Birmingham, Mich., where I taught fifth- and sixth-grade religion, as well as remedial reading," says Sister Gloria.

During this same time, Sister Gloria spent a lot of time with her aging mother.

"Through my mother, I began to see the needs of the elderly more clearly," she says. "I started taking classes in gerontology."

The classes led to a degree in gerontology and to the second phase of Sister Gloria's ministry -- working with older adults.

She began working at Marian Place, a senior residence on the Detroit riverfront, and then at the Cadillac Nursing Home in Detroit.

Sister Eileen (Marie Norman) Markey, IHM, invited Sister Gloria to join her in parish ministry, visiting homebound members of St. Joseph Parish in Winter Haven, Fla. Sister Gloria completed coursework in clinical pastoral education (CPE) at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. She ministered at the hospital and also part time at Incarnation School's clinic.



"The third phase of my ministry began when I was at the IHM Motherhouse one summer," says Sister Gloria. "I was asked to come back and provide pastoral care to Motherhouse residents. I was part of the staff from 1997 to 2004, when I formally retired. I continue to minister in our Health Center and as an auxiliary member of Pastoral Care."

Sister Gloria enjoys reading and has a special fondness for the work of Joan Chittister, OSB.

"I recently finished *In the Heart of the Temple*," she says. "Joan Chittister is a prophetic witness for the church and the world today."