

Then & Now
September 2010



Sister Mary (Caritas) Naughton was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1925 and went to school at St. Gregory the Great. She had one brother, John (Jack), and a sister Kathleen. Both parents, John (Jack) Naughton and Katie Murphy, grew up in Ireland and came to the United States as adults.

Her father made his living building houses during the auto industry boom in Detroit. Later he was hired by the University of Detroit in their maintenance department. The family never owned a car and walked everywhere they went - to school, church, shopping and visiting friends.

Sister Mary's first-grade teacher, Sister Alfred Marie, influenced her to become a nun. This teacher had 90 students in the morning class and

90 in the afternoon. She was creative in her teaching methods and often sang the lessons to the children. Because of this, Sister Mary loved going to school every day and knew one day she would become a nun and a teacher.

Having decided to become a sister in the first grade, she kept it a secret until it was finally time to tell her family. Her mother was delighted she wanted to be an IHM, and confided that she always wanted Mary to become a sister but wanted the decision to be hers alone.

Mary came to Monroe in 1943 and became an IHM Sister. She began her teaching career in 1946, and taught in schools in Detroit, Marine City, Battle Creek, Warren, Roseville and St. Clair Shores. She then became a librarian at schools in Centerline, Gaylord, Redford, Detroit, and at Visitation in Monroe and at the Motherhouse.

Sister Mary always enjoyed sewing and mending the sisters' clothing. Nowadays she also likes to read, but doesn't care much for television. She admits, however, that she enjoys watching classic movies when she gets the chance.

