

## IHM Sisters - Then and Now

January 2009



**Sister Rose Graham, IHM**, was received into the IHM community in 1959. She knew she loved teaching, but she never dreamed where that love would take her.

From 1963 to 1997, Sister Rose taught in locations as diverse as Detroit and Newport, Mich., (at St. Francis De Sales, St. Mary of Redford and St. Charles), Puerto Rico, Honduras, Ghana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"I always had a special love for the missions," she says.

She also spent two years – between ministries in Honduras and Ghana – as secretary of the IHM mission province in New York. Through much of Sister Rose's overseas ministry, she taught in a teacher training college. She also spent several years simultaneously serving as a pastoral minister.

In 1999, Sister Rose was working in Houston with children with AIDS when she was asked to give service to the Motherhouse sisters. For the last nine years, she's worked to support the Motherhouse Resident Community (MRC).

"I minister to sisters who move back to the Motherhouse and those who move to the IHM Health Care Center," she explains. "I see each sister's room as a prayer room. The transition is a little easier for those who are moving if I can help them see their new home the same way."



She also works with the sisters through their final transition, gathering their personal effects after death to return to family members or taking them to the IHM Archives, as appropriate.

Her quest for God is fulfilled through her ministry and also through her books. This past Advent and Christmas season, Sister Rose read works by Joan Chittister, OSB, and *A Child in Winter* by Christian mystic Caryl Houselander.

Sister Rose is a voracious reader. "I aim to keep the library and bookstore in business," she laughs.

Sue Monk Kidd and Barbara Kingsolver are among her favorite authors. "I find most of their writings to be spiritual food for thought," Sister Rose notes.

In reflecting on her life and ministry, Sister Rose comments, "My vision has been broadened. With all peoples and all places, I have met challenges and received graces." She celebrates her jubilee year in 2009 and recently completed a directed retreat in preparation for that milestone.