

IHM Sisters - Then and Now

August 2010



Sister Suzanne (James Ann) Molloy, IHM, was the middle child in a family of three children, James, Suzanne and Agnes May.

Her parents, James Molloy, a land surveyor from Seattle, and Frances Dwyer Molloy, a nurse from Midland, Mich., met in Juneau, Alaska, where they both worked. The Dwyer family moved to Detroit, and James Molloy followed. James and Frances were married in September 1918. Sister Suzanne's father died when she was 2 years old.

"While growing up, I heard many stories about my father," Sister Suzanne recalls. "The stories presented a vicarious presence among us."

Sister Suzanne attended public schools from kindergarten through third grade. She first met the IHM Sisters in fourth grade, when she attended Blessed Sacrament School in Detroit. After graduating from Blessed Sacrament High School, she enrolled in Marygrove College. She completed her sophomore year at Marygrove and entered the IHM community.



"I received my bachelor's degree as an IHM," Sister Suzanne notes. "During my early IHM years, every sister went to her assigned ministry and did what she was told to do. The work we did was not as important as the person we became with God's grace. I was assigned to teach in grades one through eight in many schools in the Detroit area, as well as in Akron, Ohio, and Sycamore, Ill.

"While teaching, I was also going to school myself," she says. "I received a master's degree in administration from the University of Detroit."

Sister Suzanne was appointed principal of St. Cyprian School in Riverview, Mich., a post she held for six years before returning to the classroom for three years.



Sister Suzanne traveled a bit during school breaks, touring Ireland (where the Molloy family was originally from) with two cousins and Rome, where she met Pope John Paul II. "Those two trips were the two greatest treats of my life," she reflects with a smile.

She spent seven years as principal of Nativity School in Hollywood, Fla. "I enjoyed Florida," Sister Suzanne comments. "The ocean and the weather were lovely!"

Sister Suzanne returned to Monroe in 1982, and she filled a variety of roles. She served as interim principal of St. John School, coordinator of

the Pagani Retreat Center at the IHM Motherhouse, substitute teacher at St. Patrick School, Carleton, Mich., and receptionist at Norman Towers apartment building.

In 1986, she moved to the Motherhouse and ministered as a switchboard operator, wheelchair van driver and sacristan.

"I was never without a job," she chuckles. "I was always happy to do what I could while still physically able.



"As I grow closer to eternity, I feel the presence of God each and every day," says Sister Suzanne. "Whenever I wanted to throw in the towel, there was always the invisible hand of God pulling me back. Quiet and prayer have become more meaningful in my life."

Sister Suzanne is currently recovering from back surgery. She enjoys reading – biographies, history, political and religious books are among her favorites. She also enjoys the many educational, social and recreational opportunities available at the Motherhouse.