

IHM Sisters - Then and Now

April 2009



"I know many of the sisters say they always knew they wanted to be an IHM. I can't really say that," Sister John Louise recalls. In high school she thought what she really wanted was to be married and have children.

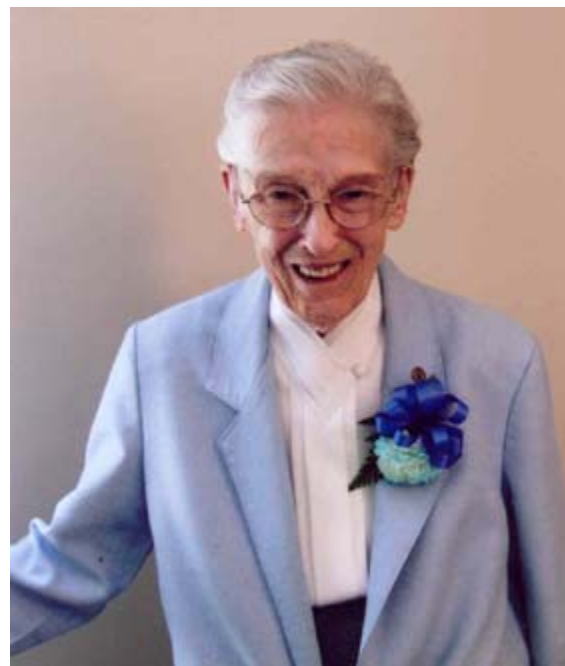
But as she got older, she realized that she was resisting her religious calling. After she graduated from Marygrove College at age 21, she honored that call to religious life.

Sister John Louise said she also never had a desire to be a teacher, but found herself teaching second grade at St. Joseph in Monroe for a few months, then seventh and eighth grade at St. Mary in Monroe, and again at Sacred Heart High School, Dearborn. She also taught at St. Mary Academy in Monroe 1952-53.

The following years found her enrolled at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. It was there she earned her master's degree in fine arts. She also studied in New York, Los Angeles, and Florence, Italy. Her study of art also took her to Africa on a Fulbright scholarship to learn more about African art culture. She then rejoined the faculty at Marygrove College where she taught art and art history.

After she earned her doctorate in humanities at Wayne State University, she continued in the 1980s to become a credentialed art therapist through the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) and to teach and coordinate a double major in art and psychology to further prepare Marygrove art majors in newly emerging professional options in art therapy in the medical and social needs professions. As an art therapist, she worked in residential treatment facilities with children and adolescents who were from abusive and dysfunctional homes.

Retirement from Marygrove College came in 1999. But she's continued teaching art at the IHM Motherhouse. She also visits and assists residents of the Health Care Center to develop skills and enjoyment



with art media especially suited to their specific needs. Periodic art exhibits of their achievements are enjoyed by the Motherhouse community and staff.

One of her favorite pastimes is watching old movies and continuing to produce and exhibit her pastel paintings in biannual exhibitions (e.g., Michigan Art Education Juried Exhibitions 2001-03; Marygrove College Faculty Exhibition 2004; American Pastel Society Annual Juried Exhibition 2005; and Religious Communities Art Exhibition, Wis., 2007).

"My life of 60 years as an IHM has been gifted by God's divine providence and graced with unimagined adventures and blessings that only increase as time passes year by year."

Sister John Louise celebrated her 60th Jubilee in 2008.