

IHM Sisters - Then and Now

June 2009



Sister Agnes Louise Murray was the second youngest of five children growing up in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. She attended St. Mary High School in Akron and graduated in 1951. When she was 13 or 14 years of age, she knew she wanted to be a nun. Her greatest influence was IHM Sister Maurine (Hilaire) Mahoney.

She entered the IHM congregation in 1951 at age 18. After graduating from college, she started teaching elementary school at St. Patrick in Wyandotte; St. Catherine and Epiphany in Detroit; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Emmett; and Our Lady of Lourdes in River Rouge, Mich. She then taught high school at Immaculata High School in Detroit. She recalls how her economics class did a study on the economic impact of winning the baseball pennant and this study

is mentioned in the book [*Building Sisterhood*](#).

In 1969 she was recruited by St. Edward's University in Austin to teach government. During staff cutbacks she was reassigned to the reading lab where she taught migrant students reading, writing and math.

Sister Agnes began her pastoral ministry in 1980 in Austin, Texas. She also worked in adult faith formation, becoming qualified as a pastoral associate in marriage and annulment, and served as director of Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

"One of the most rewarding ministries I've had has been ministry with adults. This work has a way of making me constantly examine my own values," she recalls. "What I found most help-giving was helping a person come to know who God was in their life."

Of her ministry in marriage and annulments, she said "Working with adults and helping them know their own strength and insights has been a tremendous gift to me. So many people don't realize that things (in their life) can be healed and taken care of."

She retired to the Motherhouse in 2007 and is active in prayer ministry. She's reading *Search for the Living God* by Elizabeth Johnson. She just finished *Run* by Ann Padgett, one of the books the IHM community is reading.

