

Marion Shea, IHM, Then & Now October 2009



Born in 1929 in St. Louis, Mo., Sister Marion Shea was one of four children, including her sister Jane (who was an IHM), Tommy and Jack. She and Jack became best of friends as teenagers, attending movies together and each other's sports events.

Sister Marion enrolled at Marygrove College for one year after high school, then entered the Maryknoll Sisters congregation, but came home after a year. She spent the next five years living at home with her parents. Her parents had season tickets for the St. Louis Cardinals' Sunday home games and they attended each one. Sister Marion loved those times! To this day, she is still a big baseball fan.

Sister Marion's aunt was an IHM who had previously been a Redemptorist. It was this aunt who persuaded Marion and Jane to come to Monroe and become IHMs. At age 26 she entered the IHM community.

In 1958 she graduated from Marygrove College. Her first year of teaching was at St. Mary's Redford with fifth-grade students.

After St. Mary's she went to Pontiac and taught seventh and eighth grade. Then she ministered at St. Regis Parish, seven years as a teacher and four as a principal. She continued her ministry as a school principal for five years at St. Bede.

"As a principal, I concentrated on keeping the teachers happy," Sister Marion recalls. "I would go and visit their rooms, talk to them, and as a result, I had a good relationship with my teachers. That was my method. Keep the teachers happy so the kids would be happy. Then the parents would be happy."

After St. Bede she travelled to California with a good friend and IHM Sister, Mary Katherine Hamilton. Together they re-opened a school in Gustine, Calif., and spent the next seven years teaching. Her next ministry took her to Pinole, Calif., working in a local parish, and then 10 years in Minnesota.

She moved back to Monroe in 2000, doing volunteer work, including working in the IHM Library. She enjoyed the library, mainly because of her passion for reading. In 2005 she retired to the Motherhouse.

Sister Marion still has a passion for reading. She's currently reading *The Empty House* by her favorite author, Rosamunde Pilcher. And she still loves baseball, watching the St. Louis Cardinals whenever she can. But she also enjoys watching golf, basketball and football, especially the Green Bay Packers.

